Iceland Partnership

4/2/15

VFTH

When it comes to studying climate change, how many students in the United States get a chance to do so sixty miles from the Arctic Circle?

It’s an opportunity WKU students now have as Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

WKU’s international reach is stretching all the way to the arctic circle thanks to a new partnership with a University in Iceland. It all started with a stop on the Toppers at Sea voyage less than a year ago.

Dr. Leslie North \ Assistant Prof., Geography & Geology

Dr. Gary Ransdell \ WKU President

Dr. Jason Polk \Assistant Prof., Geography & Geology

Katie Adams \ WKU Junior

 “I don’t think any of us really could grasp the opportunity that would come from that particular experience.”

Dr. Leslie North is talking about a climate change study abroad course during the Toppers at Sea voyage last year in Iceland.

 “Our students gave a presentation which we didn’t know how it was going to go it went extremely well, better than we hoped. A natural relationship blossomed from that moment.”

Just ten months later, WKU and the University of Akureyri held simultaneous signing ceremonies to embark on a partnership to study climate change.

 “So it opens the North Atlantic Ocean, the Arctic, the melting polar ice cap up to our students. We don’t have those things in Kentucky.”

Thirty two students from WKU’s Geology and Geography department will study climate change in the arctic this summer.

 “It is pretty significant when you think about the numbers and just that type of experience and how few students get that in their college career. “

Bowling Green Junior Katie Adams was on that Toppers at Sea voyage last year. She was asked to use her artistic skills to create artwork that reflected the partnership for Iceland’s President.

 “I did the background first then I flipped it over and put in the horse in the reflection of water then flipped it back over and put Icelander horse in second.”

 “President Grimmson was absolutely blown away by that original piece of art that Katie did.”

 “It’s very nice to get to be recognized for your work and getting to represent WKU is such an honor.”

Soon many other WKU students will have the honor of taking part in this super science opportunity, more than three thousand miles from WKU’s campus.

The international reach will extend even further later this month when WKU signs a similar agreement with Belize which will allow for climate change study from one end of the earth to the other.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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