Burch Institute

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A new Institute at WKU is designed to take ideas from initiation to implementation.

Amy Bingham has more on the Burch Institute for Transformative Practices in this week’s View from the Hill.

People have ideas every day about how to impact a student’s success. But how do you advance that idea into an actual practice? There’s now a spot on campus dedicated to not only thinking outside the box but making sure those ideas are implemented.

 “If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you always got.”

Student success is the sole focus of a new Institute at WKU.

 “What we want to do is incite innovation from faculty, staff, administrators, people on this campus who care about this campus.”

501 Regents Avenue, located next to the Sustainability House and across from Gary Ransdell Hall is the home of the Kelly M. Burch Institute for Transformative Practices in Higher Education.

 “There was exactly one plot of land on planet earth that did what this little plot of land does, keep us closely connected to the Center for Literacy and right next door to the EDLD Doctoral program.”

The rooms are designed to accommodate brainstorming sessions, but this place is about more than ideas, it’s about making the ideas come to fruition.

 “anybody on this campus who has ideas to better execute how we are serving our mission to the region, this community and our students, let’s hear them.”

Provost Emerita Barbara Burch came up with the idea for the Institute as a way to celebrate her daughter Kelly, a former WKU alum and faculty member who died in 2015.

A packed house was on hand for the grand opening of the Burch Institute.

 “We are excited about the fact that the administration here sees the need and supports us.”

With the help of an advisory board, the goal is to make the entire campus aware that this is a place to put ideas into practice.

 “Anyone is welcome. They don’t have to have a full idea. They don’t have to have money. They don’t have to have anything but that Western spirit.”

To get in touch with the Kelly M. Burch Institute for Transformative Practices in Higher Education you can call 270-745-3510 or email itphe@wku.edu.

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

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