Belize Students reunited at WKU

VFTH

2/6/20

What are the odds that two childhood friends from Belize would bump into each other on WKU’s campus?

Not very high but it happened. Amy Bingham has their story in this week’s View from the Hill.

This is quite a coincidence. Belize – population 390-thousand - is located on the eastern coast of Central America.

It took coming to WKU for two childhood friends from that country to reunite.

Belizan students Chelsie and Brenesha may be laughing now but it wasn’t that way when they arrived at WKU last fall.

 “The first week I got here I was crying every day. I called my mom every day two or three times a day. She was like ok you’ve got to stop calling me, you’ve got to stop crying, you’ve got to be independent.”

 “Around that time it was September and it was like my birthday and I was feeling homesick.”

But a chance encounter changed everything.

 “One day I was walking around campus and I felt like someone touching me and I was like who are you? And I was like oh my goodness that’s Brenesha.”

 “When I found out it was her that was the best day of my life we were so happy.”

 “That’s Brenesha in the blue shirt..”

The young women lived nearly three hours apart in Belize but would see each other every summer at church camp.

 “Every year we went to same church camp and we got closer and talked. Sometimes we were in the same dorm room and sometimes we were not. But we got to know each other better every time we went to the camp.”

The two lost touch when they aged out of the camp at sixteen and never imagined finding each other on the same campus in the U.S.

 “I didn’t even know she was coming here. She didn’t know I was coming. It was very good to meet her here.”

Now they’re navigating the rigors of college in a foreign country together and helping keep homesickness at bay.

 “It’s the simple little things like talking in our dialect creole, it just makes a big difference.”

 “Our families are very happy that we found each other and are together.”

Both Chelsie and Brenesha already had their associates degree when they came to WKU. Chelsie is pursuing a degree in Public Relations and Brenesha is studying Bio-Physics.

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

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