Logan Aluminum Gift

VFTH

2/17/11

An informal partnership between Logan Aluminum and Western Kentucky University just got a whole lot more formal with the announcement of a 300-thousand dollar gift from the industry.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham explains why this is just the beginning of great things for WKU engineering students.

Logan Aluminum is the plant where at least 45 percent of American beverage cans like this one are manufactured. Tonight, a look at how the plant is taking a partnership with WKU Engineering to a whole new level.

Logan Aluminum has one thousand full time employees.

“Two million square feet under roof , we have our own EMT’s and ambulance service around the clock.”

 They work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 364 days a year.

For the past several years, employees there have worked side by side with some of WKU’s brightest engineering students.

 “We’ve worked for a long time with Western Kentucky providing projects for seniors to work on. It gives us a sneak peek as to where some of the students are and we’ve been able to successfully recruit them.”

But now a more formal partnership is in place thanks to a 300-thousand dollar gift to create the Logan Aluminum Industrial partnership program.

 “What this does is it lets us move it to another level, increasing the number of those thing, increasing the formality for which we are able to recruit students to come do internships.”

The partnership will allow students to go far beyond the classroom experience.

 “Where they really become engineers, where they really master engineering skills is doing the projects.”

The goal now is for other businesses to step in.

 “This is a start, we are really hopeful that we can get a lot of industries involved in this program and that it grows and expands.”

 “We hope people will come and want to be at the table because right now Logan is a great partner but the only one sitting at the table. Hope there is more.”

Dr. Ellis says the program will offer incentives to other companies that come on board. A staff position will be created to cultivate relationships between WKU engineering and regional industrial partners.

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

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