Sisterhood Grant Recipients

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For the past five years, the WKU Sisterhood has provided financial backing to some very worthy causes on campus.

Amy Bingham looks at the two recipients of this year’s Sisterhood grant in this week’s View from the Hill.

When a group of philanthropic women team up to decide how best to spend their money, you can bet there will be some spirited discussion. This year was no different as members of the Sisterhood voted to support not one but two different programs.

“I’m very passionate about study abroad.”

So too are the ladies who make up the WKU Sisterhood. After listening to five finalists make their cases in four minutes or less, the sisterhood opted to give one 20-thousand dollar check to facilitating diversity on study abroad programs.

“It’s intended to help overcome one of the primary barriers to study abroad which is lack of funding.”

Monarch says the scholarship support is for diverse and underfunded students planning to study abroad. But the sisterhood is adamant the grant doesn’t mean they will get a free ride.

“We also want to see that they have a stake in investing in the program financially themselves so they need to demonstrate that they’ve either done some fundraising on their own or looked at other ways to supplement whatever funding we can give them.”

“This started when I was an undergraduate at Valparaiso University.”

The other 20-thousand dollar grant recipient, a program called Big Red’s Readers, a concept brought to the hill by Lady Topper Softball Assistant Coach K.C. Bolt.

“If you put a stuffed animal or something comforting in an elementary school kids laps sort of like a counseling tool, it will help them be more confident readers.”

Big Red’s Readers began last spring with a visit to one classroom at Dishman McGinnis Elementary.

With this funding, Bolt says the softball team hopes to reach 2,000 first and second graders in Bowling Green and Warren County.

“It really gives them hands on experience of not just running a program but being part of something they can see having such a widespread effect.”

Find out how you can be part of the WKU Sisterhood and help pool your financial gifts to advance university priorities by logging on to wku.edu backslash sisterhood.

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

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