Online learning – Top 5 ranking

VFTH

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Anchor Intro: For the third year in a row, WKU’s online degree programs were ranked in the top five in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

There are plenty of reasons why as Amy Bingham tells us in this week’s View from the Hill.

Amy Intro: The technology boom over the past decade has resulted in online learning growing exponentially. It’s an area where WKU continues to be on the cutting edge.

Supers:

:10 - :14 Cindy Troutman \ Program Mgr., Online Program Services

:24 - :28 Anne Honaker \ Senior Instructional Designer

:58 – 1:02 Dr. Beth Laves \ Assoc. V.P., Extended Learning & Outreach

PKG 1:39

A third of WKU students took at least one on-line course last fall.

16:30 “so that’s big right?”

For many it’s a matter of convenience.

25:22 “Most students we work with are adult learners. They are juggling a lot of things in life.”

More than one thousand courses are taught on-line each semester but the material doesn’t magically appear overnight.

48:25 “Our field of expertise is knowing how to design content, materials and assessments on line in a way that helps people learn.”

Instructional Designers collaborate with faculty to bring their curriculum to life on line.

48:40 “The faculty bring their area of expertise in various subjects with them between the two of use we work together to put a quality course on line.”

It’s that quality that has resulted in WKU on-line degrees getting a top five finish for the third year in a row from U.S. News and World report.

10:22 “We have full time faculty who are developing our programs and they’re our faculty, they are tenured or tenured eligible faculty who are doing the work and that’s the foundation for these programs.”

Student support is another critical component.

27:31 “We work with them to create a plan for success, connect them to resources specific to their needs.”

A student support center and student resource portal is available to assist students with any questions they may have.

20:36 “What we realize is students can’t just come to an on line class and automatically know how it works, what they’re supposed to do. Have to provide support systems.”

All for one ultimate goal—maximizing student learning.

58:17 “For the population it can benefit, it’s a wonderful thing. It’s enabled a lot of people to continue education that otherwise wouldn’t have.”

TAG

Laves says another reason WKU is at the forefront of on-line learning is that it does all transcriptions in house. Nearly two dozen student workers in Instructional Design play a key role in that task.

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

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