Summer Start Preview

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Freshmen entering WKU this fall will have the opportunity to jump start their college career.

Amy Bingham explains the Summer Start program in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s a brand new pilot program coming to the hill in July. College freshman have the unique opportunity to move to campus early, save money and earn six credit hours before the fall semester even begins.

Summer is usually a quiet time on the Hill but this year will be a little different.

 “This is for incoming freshman that want to get a head start in their college career.”

WKU is rolling out Summer Start, a new program that will give freshman an extra month to get adjusted to college life.

 “We had some consultants come to Western Kentucky University and they have found success in these bridge programs in terms of retention and graduation rates. So we thought it’s time to try it.”

Freshman can take two classes during the four week session from July 15 through August 10th while living on campus.

Provost David Lee says the price is remarkable.

 “It’s about a 20 percent tuition break and particularly for students who might be in dual credit now and have six to nine hours of dual credit, it’s a chance to get another six hours very inexpensively.”

Getting acclimated to the rigors of college will be a huge focus of Summer Start.

 “We’re going to meet with them daily and weekly and make sure they’re going to class and going to these activities we have planned for them.”

 “It’s a great way for students to get their feet wet with the college experience.”

The ultimate goal is to help these students have a successful career here at WKU and beyond.

 “It advances many of the things we are trying to do as a university, time to graduation, reduced cots, more student success. This truly is a program that serves everybody involved really well.”

To learn more about Summer Start, log onto wku.edu forward slash summer start.

The goal is to have sixty students sign up during this first year. The program will roll right into Master Plan for incoming freshmen so it will be a seamless entry into their first semester.

BACK ON CAMERA

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

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