Leadershape

VFTH

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Before the spring semester even ended last week, close to fifty WKU students loaded up on a bus and headed to a rural area to hone their leadership skills.

Amy Bingham has more on the “Leadershape” conference in this week’s View from the Hill.

WKU is the only school in Kentucky that offers the national program “Leadershape”, a one week intense and sometimes personal conference that offers students lots of lessons about leadership and about themselves.

 “I’ve only met them for like a week but I feel like I actually know them for a lifetime.”

That’s the sentiment of nearly all 46 WKU students attending the Leadershape conference at the All Saints Episcopal Center in Leitchfield.

 “We found this place ten years ago and we have been coming back year after year.”

For an entire week, these students dig deep into the Leadershape curriculum…even coming up with future headlines they would like to see happen.

 “We were tasked with creating our own vision, an extreme goal we have for the community around us that we want to strive for as leaders.”

 “Leadershape really pushes our students to think the impossible. If you could do anything what would it be.”

On guest leader night, various WKU staff members come to the retreat center to interact with the students.

 “They get to ask questions to these key individuals on campus about their journey, their leadership.”

 “I’m excited about the dialogue piece of it. I think there’s a lot to be gained when you know it’s the fireside chat kind of thing.”

Listending and learning more about themselves in the process.

 “My biggest take away here is learning to listen, not to respond but listen to the individual.”

 “My highlight of the week has definitely been the personality test. I love learning about myself but I also love learning how I can connect to others.”

 “ We come from all these different organizations on campus and all these different positions and years and backgrounds but we’re all here for the same purpose.”

A purpose filled conference they all agree surpassed their expectations.

 “People tell me its so god and the food is amazing. The people are the best people you would ever meet and it’s all true.”

The students will return home tomorrow following a Leadershape graduation ceremony. Johnson says they will bring new visions, new goals and new enthusiasm back to WKU in the fall.

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

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