ISEC

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You can’t correct until you connect. That’s the key to the success of the Intercultural Student Engagement Center or ISEC.

Amy Bingham explains how the program has taken off in this week’s View from the Hill.

ISEC is known as the place where scholars are made. And a big reason why is the individualized support given to each and every student who comes through both the center and the academy.

Come to the second floor of the Downing Student Union and this is what you’ll see. “Probably more than anything we provide the students a sense of belonging and tender, loving care.”

The George and Cynthia Nichols Intercultural Student Engagement Center focuses on underrepresented students and their individual needs.

 “We kind of serve as that family atmosphere on a college campus but we still reiterate to our students that education is their first and primary goal for being here.”

More than sixty freshmen who signed up for the ISEC Academy moved to campus three days before Master Plan to get assimilated into college life.

 “It’s like a three day bootcamp if you will. It’s a really high impact practice. It’s a bridge program. “

 “I think above all we built a family and we built a brotherhood and a sisterhood that I think will never be broken. “

But ISEC isn’t just for freshmen. The services take students all the way to graduation. At least a dozen upper classmen serve as navigators.

 “we try to build a bond with them to let them know we’ve been where you are, we know you are scared.”

Senior Courtney Hurst says without ISEC’s extra support, she wouldn’t still be here.

 “To be honest I wasn’t gonna come back. I was like, eh, this is not for me. But having them , they were like get involved, do something.”

And when freshman Kennedie Nelson need to change one of her classes, she knew exactly where to turn.

 “I was like who am I gonna go to and I said ISEC. I’ll just go there. They will help me.”

Because ISEC provides a family atmosphere that helps make these students want to succeed.

 “I really do believe in order to correct the student, you have to connect with them.

The Academy students are housed together in living and learning communities. The males in Hugh Poland Hall and the females in Pearce Ford Tower. To learn more about ISEC, you can log onto wku.edu slash I S E C.

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

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