View From The Hill
(04/01/10)

**WKU Owensboro Building**

It’s been a day of celebration for WKU’s Owensboro campus…for the first time in history, WKU-O has  it’s very own facility.

Amy Bingham gives us a tour in this week’s View from the Hill.

WKU has offered classes in Owensboro since 1969.  They’ve met at Brescia, Kentucky Wesleyan, the Longfellow Center and later at Owensboro Community and Technical College.  But now, thanks to Daviess County’s fiscal court….WKU-O has a building to call it’s very own.

“Now, for the first time since being in Owensboro we’ll be able to offer daytime classes in addition to evening classes.”

After meeting in every nook and cranny of Owensboro for more than forty years,  WKU-O  has a permanent home.

“It’s a very welcoming, warm facility, that’s what our students tell us ..it doesn’t have an institutional feel…it has a comfortable feel which was the intent.”

Construction began back in 2008 after the land was purchased by Daviess County Fiscal Court.  The ten million dollar building is now leased to WKU.

“Reid is the one that  took the lead to make this happen.  He’s the judge executive…he’s the one that has  provided the leadership to build this facility.”

The two story building has sixteen classrooms…six of them are interactive.  And for the first time, faculty members have their own office space.

“We no longer have to keep things traveling in the car, stashed in the back of a classroom or stashed in a corner somewhere.”

Students have access to an interactive library, computer lab and their very own bookstore.

“We have a large alumni population in Owensboro area so our bookstore will  be serving not only the enrolled students but those who’ve been students in the past.”

WKU-O sits right next to an elementary school and across the street from OCTCS.

“It’s become a real education corridor in the community.”

Enrollment at WKU-O has grown 42 percent since 2005.  Thanks to a fully developed partnership with area community colleges….a four year degree is now offered to WKU Owensboro students.

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