SKyTeach

VFTH

5/19/11

The goal of the SKyTeach program at Western Kentucky University is to turn science and math students into the best teachers possible.

Amy Bingham has more in this week’s View from the Hill.

WKU’s SKyTeach program has much to celebrate including the very first graduates of the program. They’re a hot commodity since these teachers are ready to hit the ground running!

Supporters of the SKyTeach program recently had a chance to sit down with SKyTeach students and celebrate the very first graduates.

“Words can’t express how big of a deal this is, that Western Kentucky University actually has a full teaching program significantly designed for science and math teachers.”

Kyle Curry is one of five students who got into the program when it started in 2008. The graduates are already in high demand.

“We’re getting calls from principals and superintendents asking for names of graduates so they can hire them.”

One of the big advantages of SkyTeach is getting into a classroom the very first semester of their freshman year.

“Before they start their formal student teaching, they will have been in the classroom as many as twenty times teaching actual lessons.”

There is also a strong emphasis on inquiry-based learning.

“We actually encourage more of a discovery type of questioning based on models where our teachers, our SKyTeach candidates help students connect their own knowledge.”

Along with the first graduates, SKyTeach has also reached another milestone. Surpassing it’s initial goal of one million dollars.

“That releases a promise from the National Math and Science initiative to match that million dollars so this is some two million dollars of basic endowment.”

A financial commitment from John and Carolyn Ridley was one of 114 individual gifts that put SKyTeach over it’s one million dollar goal. With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

###