R.A. Training

VFTH

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One hundred and twenty Resident Assistants—or RA’s---have already moved in on WKU’s campus and are getting ready for five thousand other students to join them.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us the training they undergo to help keep residents safe.

Alcohol, drugs, theft, even domestic violence. Lots of situations can arise in Residence Halls. But Housing and Residence Life puts together a full week of training to make sure RA’s are ready to respond.

It’s getting loud on the 7th floor of Minton Hall.

“I had a scenario where I had to deal with a noise complaint and as soon as I opened the door it was overwhelming, I had three people yelling at me and one yelling from the hallway.

Responding to a noise complaint is one of ten different scenarios being acted out during the RA’s “Behind Closed Door” training.

“Most of the actors that are doing it have been here one or two years and they’ve encountered most of these situations and have been hand picked for that reason.”

“Some of it’s a little exaggerated but I think that’s good for the new RA’s I think it’s good for them to experience the extreme so they can handle the normal.”

Dealing with everything from fire hazards to ethnic relations to suicides is a lot of responsibility.

“These are 18 to who knows what age students really leading and being role models and confronting serious situations.”

“It’s the most important part of training you get to put your knowledge to use and actually get in the middle of those scenarios that you will possibly be facing.”

But it’s not all about handling problems. RA’s are trained extensively on how to be a resource for students.

“We’re here for them to make sure they graduate and that they get what they need.” 6:55 “The big emphasis we place on RA’s is to help students be successful academically..it’s our mission statement as well.”

Freshmen taking part in MASTER PLAN will begin moving in on Sunday. The fall semester starts on August 29th.

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