WKU Glasgow – 25th Anniversary

VFTH

2/14/13

WKU’s Glasgow Campus is celebrating a milestone this month….25 years since it officially opened.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham looks back at the school’s history with some of the key players.

Talk about coming full circle. Did you realize WKU actually began in Glasgow in the late 1800’s? The Glasgow Normal School eventually moved to Bowling Green and became Western Kentucky University. But, what goes around comes around.

 “These are from the beginning to as long as we were at Liberty Street.”

Judy Parker is an expert on WKU Glasgow. That’s because she’s been there since the beginning.

 “At the time I was the only person who worked there so I did everything.”

Parker’s hiring dates back to 1986 when the Glasgow campus consisted of an office on Happy Valley Road.

 “There’s a store called Ely drugs right beside it and there is a doorway that leads to a hall that goes to back of the building and that’s where we were.”

From there it was on to Liberty Street where the official opening took place on February 7th, 1988.

But not without some criticism.

 “There was a great deal of controversy about WKU getting above its raisin in some respects, that it shouldn’t be doing this, redundant in its efforts, it could never be much of anything.”

Try telling that to Ray Lessenberry. He’s the one who got the ball rolling on this effort more than 45 years ago.

 “I was the initiator, I was the Mayor in the 60’s and I had written a letter to see about forming a community college in Glasgow.”

 “There was a great deal of persistence by the local leaders in the community and twenty years later, they finally realized their vision.”

In 2002 the campus moved to it’s current location on Hilltopper Way which it’s already outgrown.

 “Talks are underway about an expansion of this campus.”

If the turnout at the recent 25th anniversary celebration is any indication, it’s an idea the city of Glasgow will support 100 percent.

 “We wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for this community. Glasgow, from day one, has gotten behind the whole idea of Western being a campus here.”

More than 27-hundred students from ten counties are currently enrolled at WKU’s Glasgow campus.

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

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