PNC Bank - STEM Grant

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More scientists, more engineers and more mathematicians…that’s what Kentucky and the entire country needs.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us how a recent grant to WKU will help stir interest in these careers at a very young age.

You’ve probably heard the term STEM education which stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. A new initiative is underway to expose children to these disciplines well before the age of five.

 “Kentucky alone will need to fill some 74,000 stem jobs by 2018 if we are to be competitive in national and international and the global marketplace.”

That’s a tall order but grants like the one announced recently at the Carol Martin Gatton Academy is a step in the right direction.

 “The PNC grant to work with innovate Kentucky will support the development of six videos to help parents and teachers guide children into developing higher level thinking.

The PNC Foundation, through it’s Grow up Great program, has awarded WKU a 150,000 dollar grant to support Innovate Kentucky and early childhood education.

 “PNC understands how important, particularly those first five years of life are. If you’re going to grow up great, those seeds are planted early.”

 “If we can influence families, moms and dads, how to understand how important stem education is and what a commitment it is and what it holds for our future, not just for that family and that child but the community and the country.”

Little ones of all backgrounds, especially low to moderate income, will be the target audience for the six videos which will be produced by WKU-PBS. They will be distributed locally and state-wide as well as on the internet.

With the ultimate goal of stirring interest early in the STEMS.

 “Getting out ahead of the curve like we’re doing with this project and this

initiative, we think we will be very successful in closing the gap in Kentucky.”

The PNC grant is helping meet the match for the 500 thousand dollar challenge grant the James Graham Brown Foundation made in 2011 for Innovate Kentucky.

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

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