Fulbright Recognition for WKU

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WKU’s academic profile continues to rise after the university is named among the top Fulbright producing institutions by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

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

Kayla Sweeney \ WKU Senior

Melinda Grimsley-Smith \ Coordinator, International Scholarships

Dr. Gary Ransdell \ WKU President

“I have become increasingly interested in teaching internationally over the last four years.”

Kayla Sweeney has a dream of teaching English to students in Malaysia.

“I want to pour my life out for them because I’ve seen how much they’ve influenced me and I want to influence them.”

Kayla is one of several WKU students working with Melinda Grimsley Smith from the Office of Scholar Development to apply for a Fulbright scholarship which funds graduates for a year abroad.

“There are excellent students, really amazing students here. Our role really is to find them and bring them out of the woodwork.”

And the hard work is paying off as WKU had a banner year for Fulbright scholarship recipients.

“This past year we had six students win fulbright scholarships. 25 applied and six won and that’s incredible percentages for American colleges and universities.”

WKU President Gary Ransdell says what’s even more exciting is that five of the six students are from Kentucky.

“Don’t ever tell me that our Kentucky students can’t compete with the very best students around the globe for prestigious honors like this because they can.”

“For the past few years when I’ve gone to a conference, the recognition has been along the lines of academics, particularly scholarship winners.”

It’s a list of winners Kayla Sweeney is hoping to join.

“I feel like I’m meant to work with these students.”

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

So far this spring, two WKU students have received the Fulbright and two have been named alternates. Three other students, including Sweeney, are still waiting to hear.