Brewery at WKU

VFTH

4/28/16

A new beer is brewing at WKU and it will provide a unique educational opportunity for students.

It’s the result of a public/private partnership with Alltech as Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

In 1980 there were less than fifty craft breweries in the United States. Today that number has jumped to nearly four thousand but only one is located on a college campus.

Dr. Andrew McMichael \ Assistant Dean of Potter College

Lexie Baker \ Senior, Biology Major

Dr. Pearse Lyons \ Pres., Alltech

 “We are the largest functioning operating brewery on a college campus in the United States.”

The community gets a first look and taste of the partnership between WKU and Alltech.

 “It’s a multi billion dollar industry in Kentucky, distilling and brewing.”

Now WKU is home to not only a brewery but it’s very own beer called College Heights Ale.

 “The recipe was made by Alltech and is unique to WKU made specifically for us.”

The partnership allows WKU students to keep pace with the growing industry.

 “Some of these courses we’ve offered for ten years but we’ve reworked those courses and redesigned the program to meet an industry need.”

Alltech began sending equipment to the Center for Research and Development last summer for a full size brewery and a student laboratory located right next door.

 “The students in class will have a chance to come into this lab and brew beer on a larger scale.”

 “The idea is to give them that final experience in this program as it relates to their primary major in a way that when they go out into the workforce they’ll be ready to go.”

Alltech’s Founder and president is excited about the partnership’s educational component.

“It’s about chemical engineering, stats, unit processes all these things go into making beer.”

Just last week WKU’s Board of Regents approved undergraduate and graduate certificates in Brewing and Distilling Arts and Sciences.

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

####