Wilson/Green Educator Award

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WKU continues to be singled out for it’s sustainability efforts.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us why a faculty member

received a prestigious, national green educator award.

Dr. Terry Wilson is the director of WKU’s Center for Environmental Education and Sustainabilty. He’s been involved in environmental education for more than 40 years. He says he learned the trick to engaging students a long time ago.

“We have clams, a snail, see look at the ladybugs.”

“Ever since I was a school teacher starting out I saw amazing things happen when kids got outside and got directly involved with things they want to learn about as opposed to just reading about it.”

These students from Potter Gray Elementary are wading through a hands-on watershed lesson about the environment.

“We really have just been investigating how the stream works and all the creatures that live in the stream and it’s just been really fun.”

Led by Dr. Terry Wilson through a partnership with the GM Green program, these lessons at Trammel Creek near Alvaton challenge young people to tackle water quality issues with hands on science.

“No effort like this goes without someone at the heart of it with a passion so it’s a way of saying thank you and paying it forward in the community for the work that guys like Dr. Wilson do.”

Wilson’s devotion to environmental education has now garnered him the prestigious Chevrolet Green Educator Award.

“It means a lot to me not only as a individual but having the chance to work with a lot of really neat people. It’s great for WKU and great for Bowling Green.”

Dr. Ransdell agrees calling the award a great distinction for WKU.

And for the elementary students, there’s no telling what kind of impact this sort of lesson may have on them.

“There are students who perhaps have never been in a stream and now they understand how a local watershed can affect their quality of life.”

Wilson is one of only 20 educators to be recognized for this award around the country. The Chevrolet Green Educator Award was presented by Earth Force and the General Motors Foundation.

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

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