International Students

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It’s been a week of orientation on WKU’s campus, but not just for incoming freshmen.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham explains how first time international students get their bearings before the semester begins.

At least fifty different countries are represented at WKU with the bulk of those students coming from India, China and Saudi Arabia. The International Student and Scholar Services Office helps make the transition a smooth one, especially for students arriving here for the first time.

Ese Aghente has come to WKU from Nigeria. She’s already completed seven years of medical school and now will pursue a Masters Degree in Public Health.

“Public health is all about prevention of disease, so it will really help in my country cause a lot of people can’t afford health care.”

Ese is one of almost 140 new international gathering up the tools they need to hit the ground running.

“They need to know where to go as well as who to talk to for registering for classes, getting transcripts or paying tuition bill.”

This orientation is about more than just school stuff, it also covers topics like opening a bank account and getting a drivers license.

“Those things might sound elementary for some but in fact they are crucial for student succes.”

The International Students and Scholar Services Office is a hub of activity for these students, not just the week before classes…but year round.

“They are not here only for a degree but for entire education experience.”

Bruno Carvalho Pelossi from Brazil is eager to immerse himself in the culture.

“I want to know USA, I want to know everything I can from here, the language, character, the foods, the things they’ve done.”

But that doesn’t mean he doesn’t have a few jitters.

“I’m nervous about my class…first time I have class in English.”

Ese is also excited but a little worried she might get homesick.

“It’s far away, not like I can get on a plane and go home but there are phones and internet so I can chat with my people.”

The International Students wrapped up yesterday’s orientation with a dinner hosted by WKU President Gary Ransdell and his wife Julie.

Classes for the fall semester begin next Monday. With this week’s View from the Hill…I’m Amy Bingham.

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