Nursing Building Dedication

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A new facility is providing a real opportunity for people to go into two of the hottest jobs in the health care industry.

Amy Bingham has more on the collaboration between WKU and the Medical Center in this week’s View from the Hill.

The Medical Center/ WKU Health Sciences Complex, that officially opened today, will help fill a huge void in health care and benefit the entire community.

From ground breaking-----to ribbon cutting---was only 14 months. But the partnership between the Medical Center and WKU dates back as long as Jean Cherry can remember.

“We’ve relied on that relationship to supply us with qualified nurses to take care of our patients.”

For years, a lack of space cut down on the number of WKU nursing students entering the program.

“Before we only had forty a semester. We had to turn away students.”

But not anymore. Last year, in anticipation of the new Medical Center/WKU Health Sciences Complex opening, that number jumped to eighty students per semester.

“It’s employability, its economic development, it’s jobs, its investing in our community and that’s really what our partners have come up to do.”

Nursing isn’t the only shortage addressed by the complex. The third floor is dedicated to the brand new Physical Therapy doctorate program.

“When I welcomed the students on June first I said I’ve been waiting ten years for you. That’s how long we’ve been planning it.”

The second floor nursing department features simulated labs that will allow students a seamless transition into the hospital setting.

“The labs are set up just like our patient care areas at the hospital so there are medical gas connections at each bedside.”

The first floor includes lab space for the Medical Center to offer continuing education. It’s equipped with I-Stan, an advanced patient simulator.

“I-Stan has same characteristics as patients, he breathes, has blood pressure, respirates.

With classes set to begin Monday, the wheels are motion for a partnership to continue meeting the growing needs of the community.

The Medical Center issued bonds to pay for the 15.6 million dollar building, which is included in the Tax Increment Financing District. WKU will lease the facility from the Medical Center for 25 years.

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

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