GEAR UP Summer Academy

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More than twenty high school sophomores are getting a trial run at college this month at WKU.

Amy Bingham shows us how the camp is gearing them up for success in this week’s View from the Hill.

Some of these students have never been to camp at all, but for three weeks they are living the life of a college student and hopefully envisioning higher education as part of their future.

Cheyenne Bucy \ Murray 10th Grader

Madison Duryea \ Sparta 10th Grader

Lindsey Gilmore \ Campus Director & Liaison

Shamus Pope \ Richmond 10th Grader

“This is really college for them, this is that experience.”

Cheyenne Bucy is one of 21 rising high school sophomores from around the state that is spending three weeks at WKU for GEAR UP Kentucky’s Summer Academy.

“It lets you meet people and see how you’ll interact with them.”

“You’re learning how to live in the dorm with other girls and get along with them.”

“They’re sitting in workshops with faculty and staff going through social type transition skills but it also helps them visualize being on a college campus”

College readiness and potential majors are a big focus of the sessions the students are involved in each day.

“You can see a lot more what college is like and it’s a lot easier to be ready for it I think.”

The students are also getting involved in the community by taking part in the 100 dollar solution for non-profits like the Buddy House.

“The 100 dollar solution is where you help someone but when you help them you make it sustainable where when you leave they’ll be able to use it.”  
“We’re gonna give each family a set of flash cards so they can bring them home and don’t lose memory and we’re gonna do a car wash so they can get a laminator.”

When it comes to college, GEAR UP leaders say tenth grade is the perfect age to remind them what the future can hold.

“So many students get bogged down with school and I hate high school, don’t want to continue, but when they see the vast opportunities at a university, makes them see what the possibilities are.”

“I definitely learned a lot coming there that I couldn’t have learned if I just stayed home and played x-box.”

The camp ends July 19th. To find out more about the GEAR UP Kentucky Summer Academy, call 270-745-6169.

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

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