Vic Richey

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The head of a St. Louis-based technology company returns to his alma mater for the first time in nearly 40 years.

The CEO has lots of fond memories of how WKU helped shape his successful career as Amy Bingham reports in this week’s View from the Hill.

 “It was a good fit for me. A great place to go to school.”

Vic Richey has nothing but praise for his alma mater.

And was honored to return to campus as the Gordon Ford College of Business’s 2017 Hays Watkins Visiting CEO.

 “It was really crazy because as I mentioned I was not in the business school so to be asked to come back to the business school was really pretty amazing.”

The 1979 political science major and was very active in Military Science during his time at WKU.

 “The ROTC department was really life changing for me.”

 “They wanted to get you ready to lead people and so it was an interesting push and pull of holding your feet to the fire but at the same time knowing they had your back.”

One of those people who had his back all those years ago at WKU, Colonel Greg Lowe.

 “He was one of those quiet but highly effective, highly efficient leaders with cadet corp.”

Who was asked to do Richey’s introduction.

 “To get to see somebody after all these years and remember what an impact they made 40 years ago was really gratifying.”

Prior to his lecture, Richey met with the Gordon Ford College of Business Leadership Team….

Then passed along his leadership philosophy to an auditorium full of students and faculty.

 “I want people to understand there are no secrets. It really is about treating people right, making tough decisions and giving people a good environment to excel in.”

Lowe says hearing Richey’s speech was a proud moment.

 “Everything we tried to instill in them it must have taken because he repeated it back almost verbatim.”

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

Richey has been with ESCO Technologies since 1985 and was named President and CEO in 2001. Prior to that he spent six years as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army.

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