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## Management transition continues at WKU regional campuses

KATHERINE KNOTT The News-Enterprise 8 hrs ago

A change in management for Western Kentucky University's regional campuses could increase course offerings for students, university officials said.

Aside from that, students shouldn't see any differences at WKU-Elizabethtown and Fort Knox, said Beth Laves, associate vice president in the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach.

Laves' division is taking over management of Western Kentucky's three regional campuses as part of the university's plan to address a \$15 million budget shortfall. The plan also includes cutting 140 positions across the university.

Regional chancellors previously oversaw the campuses, but those positions were eliminated along with five other support staff positions at the Elizabethtown and Fort Knox campuses.

Laves said the division is centralizing administrative processes.

The regional chancellor was a relatively new position, created in 2010, Laves said. Before that, the division oversaw regional campuses.

Laves said the regional campuses fit well with the division. They both focus on adult learners in the region and bringing WKU's educational resources to more people in the state.

Laves said a greater focus will be on hybrid and online programs. Those options are more flexible and better for adult learners, she said.

"We expect to continue to offer in-person classes," Laves said.

More than three-quarters of students at the Elizabethtown and Fort Knox campus were part-time, according to a university fact sheet. Most of the students also took courses online.

Laves said registration for summer and fall terms has begun.

The management switch is a challenge but an interesting one, Laves said.

“The staff at Elizabethtown are amazing and wonderful to work with,” she said. “They are focused and committed to students.”

Moving forward, Laves said a key metric of success is how many students transfer to WKU.

“Our greatest partner is (Elizabethtown Community and Technical College),” she said.

Laves encouraged students to show up to Elizabethtown and Fort Knox campus’s graduation at 6 p.m. May 14 at Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center at John Hardin High School.

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