

## WKU Sisterhood – Mid-Year Report

Once we had the funds, we filled out the appropriate forms to purchase a university vehicle and were unfortunately told new vehicles will not be available until at least 2023 but potentially 2024. At the end of May, we were given approval to contact dealerships outside the contracts the state/university has in order to potentially find gently used cargo vans that could fit our needs. I'm currently working with a local dealership, and I feel like we're finally making some headway! Supply chain issues and inflation have been a challenge, but I'm hopeful we'll be able to have something relatively soon.

Also, the university has completed a mockup for our van wrap! I've attached the photo here and am thrilled at the result. The Dean's Office has also approved an allocation in our 22/23 budget for vehicle gas, insurance, and maintenance in the event that we are able to secure a van before the end of the year.

With regard to the reaction from the students, they are beyond thrilled. Many of them told me that, beyond the physical benefits of owning a vehicle, this made them feel seen and valued in a way that they haven't before with regard to their chosen discipline. Part of what we love about our students is that many of them come from backgrounds where the arts are not necessarily valued as much as other areas and it was a huge impact to the students for the WKU Sisterhood to believe in them and validate their path. This will only continue to encourage students to tell their unique stories through their chosen medium.

And finally, as we prepare to welcome our incoming class of students, I'm happy to report that our number of underrepresented minority and women first year students have increased as well. This grant is of course allowing us to purchase a van, but the support of the WKU Sisterhood means so much more than that too.