Corrected - Year of Ecuador

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WKU is kicking off a year long study of Ecuador, one of the most diverse areas of the world.

Amy Bingham has more on WKU’s latest effort to expand it’s international reach in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s not just scratching the surface. Organizers of The International Year of Ecuador will allow the campus to dig deep into the country of Ecuador for the entire academic year.

More than 26 hundred miles separates WKU from Ecuador but that won’t keep students from learning about the diverse country this year.

“It will appear in the students classroom, faculty will integrate Ecuador into teaching materials, we’ll be bringing in scholars and specialists on Ecuador.”

This is the inaugural year for the International Year of program at WKU.

“This program really creates the chance to engage deeply with four to six countries during their academic career.”

Ecuador even played a large role in the Latin American Film Institute this week at WKU.

Dr. Sonia Lenk who grew up in Ecuador, was among several WKU professors helping high school teachers learn how to integrate movies into teachable moments in the classroom.

“We have tried to give some backgrounds about the country to have more information and haven really worked with cultural aspect involved with this film.”

“Allow them time to collaborate, dissect what they’re doing and put it back into a meaningful hole that can impact what’s going on in these classrooms.”

“I love to learn from professionals, from professors about the history of our countries and they have so much to say and so many little stories. I’ve loved it.”

Eight WKU Faculty members have already travelled to Ecuador as part of the Zuheir Sofia International Faculty Seminar to enhance the objectives for the International Year of program.

“Each International year of program is driven by a core group of faculty members who develop a calendar of events.”

You will be hearing more about campus and community events related to Ecuador in the upcoming academic year including a performance from the country’s dance troup in October.

The next International Year of study will be on South Africa, followed by South Korea and Bosnia.

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

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