Learn and Earn

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Scholarships and employment are coming together at WKU and giving students an opportunity to learn and earn at the same time.

Amy Bingham has more on the Learn and Earn program in this week’s View from the Hill.

It started out as an idea back in January but now Learn and Earn is a full fledged program that’s putting students to work while also helping pay for their education…. and making an impact on workforce development at the same time.

SpanTech in Glasgow is one of three businesses partnering with WKU Glasgow in the Learn and Earn program.

 “We knew there was a tremendous need for industry entry level positions and we also knew there was a tremendous need for tuition assistance.”

Students who are hired not only get a set schedule but also get half their tuition paid by the company.

 “These are positions they can work while in school part time to help with expenses and tuition.”

Non-traditional student Thomas Bratcher was the perfect candidate for the program.

 “I lost my job in February of 2015 and decided to be dedicated full time to school and then realized the budget numbers weren’t adding up.”

That’s when he heard about Learn and Earn.

 “She found a place for me at SpanTech.  It’s been a wonderful experience so far.  I’ve eliminated half my debt and receive a pay wage.”

 “It came along at an opportune time.”

A set schedule is what appeals to Tevon Williamson who is employed by Akebono…another Learn and Earn partner.

 “Most other part time jobs your working minimum wage or maybe just a little bit more, they jump around shifts, can’t get in a set routine.”

Witty is looking forward to matching up even more students with a chance to learn and earn.

 “It’s giving people the chance, it’s giving people the opportunity that maybe they thought wasn’t out there.”

Witty says they plan  to expand the Learn and Earn program to Bowling Green this fall semester.  To find out more about the program,  log onto wku.edu(forward slash) learnandearn.

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

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