Center for Citizenship and Social Justice

VFTH

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Last semester, budget cuts at WKU forced the consolidation of two similar programs offered on campus.

Amy Bingham has more on the new Center for Citizenship and Social Justice in this week’s View from the Hill.

What do you get when you merge the The Alive Center for Community Partnerships with the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility? At WKU you get the Center for Citizenship and Social Justice and you enlist students to create a mural that brings ownership and identity to the program.

Andee Rudloff knows a thing or two about murals.

“It’s something I’ve been doing since about the mid-90’s.”

She also has a process to gather inspiration.

“I love that initial sort of facilitation and conversation that I get to have where I really get to know what intentions are behind the drawing.”

Nearly a dozen students met with Rudloff to express ideas about how they want to impact the community and the world.

“The main reason I came was I saw the need for a voice for the minorities and the need for social change.”

From that discussion, Rudloff edited the ideas into an all encompassing mural.

“What I try to do is remember these stories that were shared with me and honor those stories.”

More than forty students came together to paint and watch the ideas come to life at the new Center for Citizenship and Social Justice.

“you see diversity, you see scholarships, you see individuality.”

“I want to be that voice for those who aren’t heard.”

Sophomore Francisco Serrano is pleased with how his idea of someone holding an American flag was translated on the mural.

“ He’s proud to be an American and I’m proud to be an American.”

“I’m a Salvadorean-American. I was born in Bowling Green Kentucky but other people look at me and they don’t see an American.”

“ He’s proud to be an American and I’m proud to be an American.”

Director Leah Ashwill says the mural represents the best the two former programs had to offer.

“The commonalties between the two centers are really how the students, faculty and staff can impact communities.”

“voices are coming from all across the world really, on campus now and we need to honor that.”

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The Center for Citizenship and Social Justice or CCSJ is located in Tate Page Hall room 110. The center will offer trainings and resources for citizenship and social justice activities, service-learning and public research.

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

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