Topper Teachers – Big Red Bag Ceremony

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WKU’s newest teacher graduates are getting some items to help launch their career in a big red way.

Amy Bingham has more on the Big Red Teacher Bag ceremony in this week’s View from the Hill.

“It’s pretty exciting.”

Non-traditional student Tara Britt is about to become the first Special Education/Elementary Education graduate from any of WKU’s regional campuses.

“I can teach both special education kindergarten through 12th grade and elementary education K through 5.”

Britt and her peers were part of WKU’s first of four Big Red Teacher Bag Ceremonies.

Between now and commencement, all of the region’s newest teachers will be getting a whole new bag of tricks.

“Everything from picture frames and pennants to red towels and squishy big red and a big giant mug for coffee and caffeine.”

It’s something College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Dean Corrine Murphy has done a variation of since she arrived at WKU in 2018.

“What we thought was wouldn’t it be nice if all of our teachers as they leave WKU and start their own classrooms had gear to really outfit their classroom as a Hilltopper and with all the spirit that goes with it.”

Kylie Milam is excited to use the new swag once she completes her student teaching in the fall.

“I can see myself using every single item that they gave us in my future classroom.”

She says being this close to having her own classroom is a dream come true.

“From a little girl I wanted to be a teacher.  I played school every day.”

For Britt, it was a dream she put on hold to have a family and she says finishing her degree hasn’t always been easy.

“Both my boys are super active in sports so between sports and work and school we just pushed through and did what we could do to finish.”

Already working as a long term substitute, Britt plans to take next Friday off for her college recognition ceremony on the main campus before getting back to work with her new WKU items prominently displayed.

“The coffee mug is my favorite and we are going to take a picture to put on my desk.”

“The point really is to set our Toppers teachers up for success in the classroom.”

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

Dr. Murphy says the college has launched a number of new programs that are expected to produce a bumper crop of teachers in the next three years.

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