

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Named a "2008 Best Midwestern College"

For the third consecutive year, *The Princeton Review* has named the University of Saint Mary a "2008 Best Midwestern College." *The Princeton Review* awards the distinction based on "academic excellence" and student feedback within a particular region. USM was one of 161 schools on *The Princeton Review's* website receiving the "Best in the Midwest" designation.

"Our goal is simple: to identify some of the colleges and universities that we feel stand out within each region," said Robert Franek, publisher and editorial director of *The Princeton Review*.

In addition to being named a 2008 "Best Midwestern College," Saint Mary was the only college in the Kansas City area named to *The Princeton Review's* "America's Best Value Colleges," 2008 edition." Colleges in the guidebook are designated as one of the best overall bargains—based on cost and financial aid—among the most academically outstanding colleges in the nation. USM is one of only 165 schools nationwide, out of 650, named to the "Best Value Colleges" index. According to student comments on www.princetonreview.com, the typical student at the University of Saint Mary is "friendly." Many are described as either "athletes" or "very academically oriented." Many students report that "the amount of diversity at Saint Mary's has greatly increased." Wherever they come from, these "Spires" (as they're called) are "laid-back" and get "along with everyone." A sophomore promises, "Even if you don't know a person, they still say 'hi' when you pass them in the hall or on the sidewalk going to class."

Undergrads rave about the "helpful and caring" faculty and promise that wherever or whoever you go to on campus you'll find "friendly people who are always willing to do what it takes to solve your problem." According to a sophomore, "The students at Saint Mary are more than just an ID number or paycheck. The staff and professors make an effort to learn who people are, to learn their names, and why they are attending the university." Students tell *The Princeton Review* that the "helpful" and "very intelligent" professors are the "school's greatest strength," and also create "a close-knit community of students who are expected to think."

To read more, visit www.princetonreview.com. *The Princeton Review* is a New York City-based company known for its test-prep courses, books, and education services.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, four-year Catholic university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The main campus is located at 4100 South 4th Street in Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations providing accelerated degree-completion and graduate programs in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan.

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