

## NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 2008

Contact: Bob Uhlar (You-ler) (913) 758-6165

Email: Uhlar69@stmary.edu



## University of Saint Mary is a 2009 "Best Midwestern College"

*The Princeton Review Honors USM for Fourth Straight Year*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary has been named a "Best Midwestern College" for the fourth consecutive year by the Princeton Review. The web site, based in New York City, notified USM on Wednesday that it is one of 159 schools in the Midwest region receiving the designation.

The Princeton Review surveys more than 120,000 college students and examines academic standards each year. For 2009, it chose 368 colleges nationwide for its "Best College" list.

In addition to being named a 2009 "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" for two straight years (that ranking is released in the spring). 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 named to the "Best Value Colleges" list.

The Princeton Review "Best College" survey asks students to rate their own schools on several issues—from the accessibility of their professors to quality of the campus food—and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students, and their campus life. Comments from surveyed students appear in each Princeton Review college profile.

The 159 colleges The Princeton Review chose for this year's "Best in the Midwest" designations are located in twelve states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 120 in the West, and 139 in the Southeast as best in their locales on the company's 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region section on its site. The 630 colleges named "Best (regional)" represent only about 25% of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

###