

NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 5, 2010

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The Princeton Review Names University of Saint Mary a 2011 "Best Midwestern College" *USM Lands Honor for Sixth Consecutive Year*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has been named a "Best Midwestern College" by *The Princeton Review*, an honored distinction achieved by USM now for six consecutive years.

USM was one of only 152 Midwestern schools to make the cut, and only about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges are included on one of the organization's four regional lists. In the Kansas City metro area, only USM, University of Missouri-Kansas City, William Jewell, and Baker earned distinction as a "Best Midwestern College."

The Princeton Review selects schools for its regional best-of lists based on the results of independent student surveys and an institution's record of strong academics. The complete lists can be found online at www.PrincetonReview.com. Schools on the regional list are not ranked. USM's Midwestern region includes colleges from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

"We're pleased to recommend the University of Saint Mary to users of our site as one of the best schools to earn their undergrad degree," said Robert Franek, *Princeton Review's* vice president of publishing. "We chose it and the other terrific institutions we name as 'regional best' colleges mainly for their excellent academic programs."

The Princeton Review 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.

Students responding to the survey on USM said Saint Mary offers "a 'quality' liberal arts education...with a personal touch." Students added that USM professors are "helpful and very intelligent" and "the school's greatest strength." The university creates "a close-knit community of students who are expected to think."

The Princeton Review notes that "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.'"

Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM's vice president for academic affairs, noted that "academics play a major part in the *Princeton Review* rankings, as they should. They also take other factors into consideration—ones that all students should be concerned with when choosing a college. With that in mind, I would encourage all students to take a look at USM and see why we're a 'Best Midwestern College.'"

The Princeton Review is headquartered in Framingham, Mass., with editorial offices in New York City and test prep locations across the country and abroad. The company provides resources to research, apply to, prepare for, and learn how to pay for higher education. It also offers college readiness and test prep services.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.