

'Great school, great price:' Alfred U ranks 2nd in North

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Alfred University reclaimed the number two spot in US News and World Report's ranking of "Great Schools, Great Price" among regional universities in the North. Ranked number three last year, Alfred University returned to the number two slot in the 2012 edition of "America's Best Colleges," which ranks colleges according to total cost of attendance, percentage of students receiving financial aid, the net cost of attendance, and quality indicators. Alfred University is compared to other master's degree-granting institutions in the North, which includes Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine. "Alfred University fares very well in comparison to other colleges and universities in the North, which is the most competitive region. There are not only a large number of schools in the region, but also a disproportionate number of America's best schools," said President Charles M. Edmondson. "We welcome, and appreciate, yet another affirmation that Alfred University does precisely what it says it does - We offer a great education at an affordable price." "The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal," says U.S. News. "Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included because U.S. News considers the most significant values to be among colleges that are above average academically." According to US News, Alfred University provides need-based aid to 84 percent of its students, and the average cost of attendance, after financial aid is applied is \$21,004. As it has since US News began publication of "America's Best Colleges," Alfred University is ranked in the top 20 among master's degree-granting institutions in the North, this year placing 18th. The accolades from US News follow those announced earlier this year. Just two weeks ago, Alfred University was ranked eighth in the nation among colleges and universities that award master's degrees as well as baccalaureate degrees by Washington Monthly magazine. The University was 20th last year. Unlike other rankings, which are based on what students bring with them to school - their test scores, their grade-point averages, and their socioeconomic backgrounds - not what the students gain over the four years they are in school. The Washington Monthly rankings are based how well the University help its students, and how much the students contribute to society. Other rankings also measure colleges in terms of how many people they deny admission; the "more selective" the college, the higher it is ranked. The Washington Monthly ranking looks at who the colleges accept; how they help them achieve; and what the impact on society is. In July, Alfred University was listed among the top 25 private colleges and universities in the United States when it comes to best value for the educational dollar, says the Fiske Guide to Colleges 2012. The Fiske Guide, written by former New York Times education editor Edward B. Fiske, lists only 49 schools - 25 private and 24 public - as "Best Buys" from among the nation's more than 4,000 higher education institutions, including more than 2,200 four-year colleges. In early August, the University learned Forbes magazine has ranked the University among the best schools in the nation in its annual guide, placing it in the top 10 percent of all four-year colleges and universities in the nation. It is ranked 259 among all private colleges, and 103 in the Northeast. Alfred University was named one of the country's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review, in releasing the 2012 edition of its annual college guide, "The Best 376 Colleges." Editors of The Princeton Review say only 15 percent of the 2,500 four-year colleges in the United States, and three outside the U.S., are included in the guide, which includes detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores for all schools in eight categories, plus ranking lists of top 20 schools in the book in 62 categories based on The Princeton Review's surveys of students attending the colleges.