

Princeton Review again names Alfred University one of the 'Best Colleges' in nation

8/03/10

Alfred University earned another accolade: The Princeton Review named the University as one of the nation's best in the 2011 edition of its annual college guide, "The 373 Best Colleges," to be published today by Random House/Princeton Review. "Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges, and two Canadian colleges are profiled in the book, which is The Princeton Review's flagship college guide," according to a release from the publisher. Robert Franek, Princeton Review's senior vice president and author of the guide, says the primary criterion for selecting schools is "outstanding academics. Our choices are based on institutional data we collect about our schools, our visits to the schools over the years, feedback we gather from students attending the schools, and the opinions of our staff and our 28-member National College Counselor Advisory Board. We also work to keep a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character." "To be rated again in the 15 per cent of America's universities is a resounding endorsement of the value of an education from Alfred University," said President Charles M. Edmondson. "Among all of the rating and rankings in the U.S., this is probably one of the most prestigious. Our alumni, faculty and staff can be proud that we have again been honored by The Princeton Review." Selection for the "Best Colleges Guide" comes follows the announcement earlier this summer that Alfred University was selected by The Fiske Guide to Colleges, 2011 edition, as a "Best Buy." Only 45 colleges and universities nationwide - the top 1 percent - are included on the list as having excellent value for the price. And each year for the past several years, Alfred University has been selected by U.S. News and World Report as a "great school at a great price" in its annual college guide. The new edition of the U.S. News guide is due out later this month. In its two-page review of Alfred University, The Princeton Review calls the University "A fine university with a solid local reputation. The allure for arts students is obvious - Alfred's programs in the arts are especially well-regarded - and as a result, competition is fiercest among applicants for these programs. Competition for the engineering school is also tight. Applicants will need to have thrived in a rigorous high school program." AU students are quoted as saying "Alfred offers tons of majors and minors within four different schools (School of Art & Design, School of Engineering, College of Business and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences) and the school does a good job of integrating the four distinct schools into one cohesive whole. "The size of the school (just under 2,000 undergraduates) is a strength. Because the school is so small, students have chances they might never have at other schools. Some of the best friends I have made here are upperclassmen whom I probably would not have met had I gone to a larger school. In such a small school, everyone has a chance to make his or her voice heard in a way that probably can not happen at larger schools." While Alfred is in a rural area, students say there are always multiple events and programs every week, including "movies, lectures, comedy acts, music shows, art shows and plays." One student summed it up: "Life is quiet for those who like it quiet, but it also offers something for everyone." Students like the fact "There really is no typical student at Alfred [because the] wide variety of majors and minors attracts such a wide variety of students." For more about Alfred University: <http://www.alfred.edu> For more about The Princeton Review: <http://PrincetonReview.co...>