

News Release

U of M Crookston Holds on to Top Spot in U.S. News Best Colleges rankings in category Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges

By Itollefs on Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Marks Second Consecutive Year at Number One and Seventeenth in Top Four

For the second year in a row, the University of Minnesota Crookston ranks number one in U.S. News Best Colleges rankings in the category Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges. The ranking is the 17th consecutive year that Crookston campus has appeared in the top four. The exclusive rankings, available at usnews.com on Tues., September 9 will be published in the September issue of U.S. News & World Report, available on newsstands on Tuesday, September 23.

U of M Crookston Chancellor Fred Wood is pleased the campus held on to the top spot in the rankings. "Much of the recognition this campus has received over the years is the result of a highly dedicated faculty and staff," said Wood. "What sets our campus apart from others is that we provide students with an atmosphere that is remarkably supportive and personal, where learning is hands-on and where faculty and staff not only know students' names but also their strengths and interests."

"Our students recognize the value of earning a highly recognized and respected University of Minnesota degree while studying at the University of Minnesota Crookston in an environment that gives them opportunities for learning, leadership, and a chance to develop skills that will prepare them for the workplace or graduate school. We are truly the small campus with the big degree."

The U.S. News ranking system uses quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality. Schools are categorized by their mission, which is derived from the breakdown of types of higher education institutions developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of teaching. The key measures of quality include graduation and retention rates; assessment of excellence; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; graduation rate performance, which is the difference between actual and predicted graduation rates; and alumni giving. Scores for each measure are weighted to arrive at a final overall score.

Other colleges ranked in the top four Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges include Valley City State University at number two, Northern State University at number three, followed by Dickinson State University at number four with Bismarck State College and Lake Superior State University tied at number five. The category focuses on undergraduate education with fewer than 50 percent of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. There were 364 colleges ranked in four regions--North, South, Midwest, and West--in the Regional Colleges category.

To view the rankings, visit <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-colleges/top-public>.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus--as well as 13 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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