

## **U.S.News Rankings Again Cite Quality, Value and Commitment to Students at NAC&U Institutions**

At a time when consumers are scrutinizing every dollar they spend, one thing is certain. Students enrolled at New American Colleges & Universities get their money's worth based on rankings in *U.S.News & World Report's* 2011 "America's Best Colleges" issue.

More than half of NAC&U members were featured among only 60 regional universities nationwide on the "Great Schools, Great Prices" list which calculated value by measuring academic quality against the net cost of attendance (based on average aid package). They are:

North: **Ithaca College, The University of Scranton**  
South: **Elon University**  
Midwest: **University of Evansville, Valparaiso University, Drake University, Butler University, Hamline University**  
West: **University of Redlands, Pacific Lutheran University, Westminster College**

Additionally, NAC&U member **Samford University** was also listed among the top 25 national universities whose students graduate with the least debt. Only 38 percent of Samford students graduate with debt, and the average amount is just over \$15,000.

NAC&U members excel in delivering a quality experience to students. **Elon** and **Belmont University** took the 1st and 2nd spots, respectively, among regional institutions in the south on the "Strong Commitment to Teaching" ranking. Four Midwestern members – Butler (3<sup>rd</sup>); Drake, **North Central College**, and Valparaiso (6<sup>th</sup>, all tied); also were recognized for undergraduate instruction. The University of Scranton was tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> among northern institutions on the same list.

More than a third of NAC&U members were listed as "Up-and-Comers," many of which had made last year's list. They are:

North: **Wagner College** (1st), **Quinnipiac University** (2nd), **Arcadia University** (3rd)  
South: **Elon** (1st), **Belmont** (2nd)  
Midwest: **Butler** (1<sup>st</sup>), **Valparaiso** (4<sup>th</sup>, tied)

Again New American Colleges and Universities featured prominently on the list "A Strong Focus on Student Success," which examines academic programs commonly linked to positive student outcomes. These enriching opportunities are also hallmarks of New American Colleges and Universities which connect theory to application through experiences both in and out of the classroom. Wagner and

Elon were recognized for their First-Year Experience programs, Internships, Learning Communities, and Service Learning. Belmont was also recognized for its Learning Communities. Additionally, Elon was recognized for its Senior Capstone program. Four NAC&U members were cited for having excellent Study Abroad programs. They are Arcadia, Butler, Elon, and the University of Evansville.

More than seventy-five percent of NAC&U members were recognized on the “A+ Schools for B Students” list. They are Samford, Arcadia, Ithaca, Quinnipiac, Redlands, The University of Scranton, Wagner, Belmont, Elon, Butler, Drake, **Drury University**, Hamline, Valparaiso, Pacific Lutheran, **Russell Sage College**, and Westminster.

In the overall rankings again more than half of New American Colleges and Universities classified as regional universities were in the top ten for their respective geographic rankings, and 95 percent were in the top 30. Samford moved up 22 spots to #104 out of 260 national universities this year. Russell Sage College moved from the third tier to the first tier among national liberal arts colleges.

**Hampton University** moved up two places to take the 4<sup>th</sup> spot on the list of Black Colleges. Valparaiso’s engineering program was ranked 31st nationally among engineering schools that offer only bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

For more information, visit [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com).

Arcadia: <http://www.arcadia.edu/news/default.aspx?id=33620>

Belmont: <http://forum.belmont.edu/umac/archives/013980.html>

Butler: <http://www.butler.edu/absolutenm/templates/?a=1978&z=22>

Drake: <http://www.drake.edu/news/db/official/archive.php?article=6112>

Drury: <http://www.drury.edu/multinl/story.cfm?nlid=246&id=25364>

Elon: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=947108>

Hamline:

[http://www.hamline.edu/shared/news\\_items/university/August2010/us\\_news\\_rankings.html](http://www.hamline.edu/shared/news_items/university/August2010/us_news_rankings.html)

Ithaca: <http://www.ithaca.edu/news/release.php?id=2977>

North Central: <http://northcentralcollege.edu/x52789.xml>

Quinnipiac: <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x2769.xml>

Samford: <http://www.samford.edu/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=2147492774>

Scranton: <http://matrix.scranton.edu/news/articles/2010/08/US-News-2010.shtml>

Evansville: <http://www.evansville.edu/news/newsarticle.cfm?articleId=1267>

Valparaiso: <http://www.valpo.edu/news/news.php?releasId=4509>

Wagner: <http://www.wagner.edu/news/node/1483>

Westminster:

[http://www.westminstercollege.edu/campus\\_news/index.cfm?id=951\[currentrow\]](http://www.westminstercollege.edu/campus_news/index.cfm?id=951[currentrow])