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Title

On "America's Best Colleges": Letter to the Board of Regents

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THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Many of you will have seen the "America's Best Colleges" issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, published on August 30. I enclose two tables that reflect the University of California's rankings in that survey.

Table 1 shows that, among public universities, UC ranks very high. All eight of our general campuses are among the top 50 national public universities in the country. Like last year, UC Berkeley is again #1, and six UC campuses are within the top 16 in the nation.

Table 2 reflects the rankings for all universities, public and private. As you will note, UC does far less well. Because of the weightings *U.S. News and World Report* uses to rank colleges and universities, private universities consistently fare better than public ones. For example, UC Berkeley, which is #1 among public universities, is ranked #20 among all universities nationally. The top public universities compare well to the top privates in terms of academic reputation and student selectivity, two factors in the *USNWR* ranking model. However, public institutions in general do less well than the privates on four other factors used by *USNWR*—financial resources, faculty resources, retention, and alumni giving rates. Compared with private institutions, public universities have fewer financial resources per student, higher student-faculty ratios, larger undergraduate classes, lower six-year graduation rates, and lower rates of alumni giving. These differences account for the lower rankings public universities tend to receive in this survey.

Finally, a comment about the decline of UC Irvine's ranking from #36 to #49 among all universities. This drop is primarily the result of a change in a single data element. UCI correctly reported to U.S. News that 90 percent of the entering freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their high school class, but also stated that 0 percent of the freshmen submitted their rank in class to the campus. *USNWR* consequently used their own significantly lower estimate of that percent in their ranking model, lowering UC Irvine's overall ranking. Clearly, this will be rectified in next year's report, but I wanted you to know the reason for this change in UCI's rank on the survey.

Yours truly,

Richard C. Atkinson
President

Enclosures

cc: Chancellors

Table 1

Top National Public Universities			
U.S. News and World Report Rankings for the Year 2000			
America's Best Colleges			
1.	University of California–Berkeley	28.	Colorado School of Mines
2.	University of Virginia	28.	Ohio State University–Columbus
3.	Univ. of California–Los Angeles	28.	Virginia Tech
3.	University of Michigan–Ann Arbor	31.	Indiana University–Bloomington
5.	U. of North Carolina–Chapel Hill	31.	Michigan State University
6.	College of William and Mary (VA)	31.	Ohio University
7.	Univ. of California–San Diego	31.	Univ. of California–Riverside
8.	U. of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign	31.	Univ. of California–Santa Cruz
8.	Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison	31.	University of Colorado–Boulder
10.	Georgia Institute of Technology	31.	University of Connecticut
10.	Pennsylvania State Univ.	38.	Auburn University (AL)
12.	University of California–Davis	38.	Clemson University (SC)
13.	Univ. of California–Santa Barbara	38.	Iowa State University

13.	University of Texas–Austin	38.	North Carolina State U.–Raleigh
13.	University of Washington	38.	University of Kansas
16.	University of California–Irvine	38.	University of Pittsburgh
16.	University of Florida	38.	University of Vermont
18.	Purdue Univ.–West Lafayette (IN)	45.	Florida State University
18.	Texas A&M Univ.–College Station	45.	University of New Hampshire
18.	Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities	45.	Univ. of Tennessee–Knoxville
21.	University of Iowa	48.	Michigan Technological University
22.	Miami University–Oxford (OH)	48.	University of Arizona
22.	Rutgers–New Brunswick (NJ)	48.	Univ. of Massachusetts–Amherst
22.	SUNY–Binghamton	48.	Univ. of Missouri–Columbia
22.	University of Delaware		
22.	University of Georgia		
22.	Univ. of Maryland–College Park		

Table 2

Top National Universities			
U.S. News and World Report Rankings for the Year 2000			
America's Best Colleges			
1.	California Institute of Technology	27.	Univ. of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

2.	Harvard University (MA)	28.	Wake Forest University (NC)
3.	Massachusetts Inst. of Technology	29.	College of William and Mary (VA)
4.	Princeton University (NJ)	29.	Tufts University (MA)
4.	Yale University (CT)	31.	Brandeis University (MA)
6.	Stanford University (CA)	32.	University of California–San Diego
7.	Duke University (NC)	32.	University of Rochester (NY)
7.	Johns Hopkins University (MD)	34.	Case Western Reserve Univ. (OH)
7.	University of Pennsylvania	34.	Lehigh University (PA)
10.	Columbia University (NY)	34.	New York University
11.	Cornell University (NY)	34.	Univ. of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign
11.	Dartmouth College (NH)	34.	University of Wisconsin–Madison
13.	University of Chicago	39.	Boston College
14.	Brown University (RI)	40.	Georgia Institute of Technology
14.	Northwestern University (IL)	40.	Pennsylvania State University
14.	Rice University (TX)	42.	University of California–Davis
17.	Washington University (MO)	42.	University of Southern California
18.	Emory University (GA)	44.	Tulane University (LA)
19.	University of Notre Dame (IN)	44.	Univ. of California–Santa Barbara
20.	University of California–Berkeley	44.	University of Texas–Austin

20.	Vanderbilt University (TN)	44.	University of Washington
22.	University of Virginia	44.	Yeshiva University (NY)
23.	Carnegie Mellon University (PA)	49.	University of California–Irvine
23.	Georgetown University (DC)	49.	University of Florida
25.	University of California– Los Angeles		
25.	University of Michigan– Ann Arbor		