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U.S. News Again Ranks UW-Eau Claire Among Top Public Universities in the Midwest

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EAU CLAIRE — U.S. News & World Report magazine has again named the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire among the best public regional universities in the Midwest.

The 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" ranks UW-Eau Claire No. 6 among the top regional public universities in the Midwest and 29th among all private and public institutions in the Midwest.

The publication has ranked UW-Eau Claire among the top public institutions in the Midwest every year since 1995.

"We're pleased to again be recognized among the top public universities in the Midwest," Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich said. "It is remarkable that UW-Eau Claire has been able to maintain such consistently high rankings through many years — and that is a direct result of the student-centered approach to learning that is the lived mission of the university."

U.S. News & World Report ranks UW-Eau Claire in what is known as the "Best Universities-Masters" category. The category's Midwest region includes schools in 12 states stretching from the Dakotas in the west to Missouri in the south and Ohio in the east. Public and private universities included in this category provide undergraduate- and master's-level programs, and typically draw students from surrounding states.

The regional rankings include 572 schools in four geographic areas (North, South, Midwest and West). The rankings reflect how schools compare on a set of 15 indicators that have traditionally been used by U.S. News & World Report to compare colleges and universities across the nation. Those indicators include things such as academic reputation, faculty-student ratio, class sizes, freshmen high school class ranking and ACT scores, graduation and freshman retention rates, and alumni giving.

Levin-Stankevich said that despite fiscal challenges posed by continued state budget cuts, UW-Eau Claire continues to provide high-impact opportunities such as student/faculty collaborative research, study abroad, civic engagement and professional internships.

"Providing those opportunities enables us to continue to attract great students who want to be part of the college experience that we offer," he said. "Maintaining quality in light of shrinking state resources is our highest priority. High rankings from U.S. News, The Princeton Review and Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine reflect the quality of a UW-Eau Claire education for current students and add to the value of a UW-Eau Claire degree."

The U.S. News & World Report rankings will be included in the magazine's college guidebook, "America's Best Colleges." Many of the rankings also will be included in the Sept. 1 issue of the magazine, available at newsstands Aug. 24. Many rankings also can be found on the U.S. News Web site.

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