
ASU recognized as one of nation's best

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Angelo State University is one of 11 Texas schools to be included in the annual Princeton Review of the nation's best institutions of higher education.

The 2010 edition, "The Best 371 Colleges," also included Baylor, Rice, Southernn Methodist University, Southwestern University, Texas A&M, Texas Christian University, Trinity University, the University of Dallas and the University of Texas at Austin.

"This is great national recognition for Angelo State and marks the university's first time to make Princeton Review's national list," ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said in a news release. "It reaffirms the strides we are taking as an institution to enhance the educational opportunities and experiences for our students."

Only about 15 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges are profiled in the book, which was released this week. It includes detailed profiles of the colleges with ratings based on Princeton Review's surveys of students attending the colleges.

"I think it's just a growing reputation of Angelo State, the broad academic experience, the focus on making it a residential campus ... a variety of factors enter into it," said Preston Lewis, ASU's director of communications and marketing. "It's what we're working toward."

The book's profile on ASU highlights the low student-faculty ratio of 19:1, saying it "allows for an individualized educational experience." The profile also states, "ASU graduates are sought by graduate and professional schools, such as law and medicine. For example, ASU has a student acceptance rate of 39 percent for medical school, compared to the Texas statewide average of 17 percent."

Andrea Kornstein, Princeton Review's director of student service, said a school must go through a rigorous process to make the final cut.

"Every school that's in the book is a school we champion," she told the Standard-Times.

Information is gathered through a 79-page standard questionnaire submitted to colleges nationally and a shorter supplemental questionnaire regarding distinctive programs and activities of the university.

"Each year, various college guides and so forth submit questionnaires; this office handled the response to the questionnaire," Lewis said.

The student survey comprises 80 questions on topics ranging from assessments of their professors to campus food and availability of financial aid.

In the 2010 guide, Angelo State students touted the university as "a small school with big opportunities" and "bang

for your buck” as well as for “excellent scholarship opportunities,” according to the news release. ASU was described academically as a “science haven” with professors who “are on a first-name basis with their students” and who “get to know you personally.” Overall, “academics are pretty important” to most students, according to the survey responses.

The Princeton Review said more than 122,000 students nationally participated in the survey and an average of 325 students responded per campus.

“The process reflected a total university effort, starting with our faculty who deliver the education, our staff who support the educational process and the students who recognize the quality of our efforts,” Rallo said in the news release. “Such recognition helps not only to build the reputation of ASU as a member of the Texas Tech University System, but also to enhance the value of an Angelo State degree to our alumni.”

“The Best 371 Colleges” is the 18th edition of Princeton Review’s annual “best colleges” book.

“This is certainly a good recognition for ASU, and we’ll be using the recognition in terms of marketing the university, sort of putting the Princeton Review seal on our efforts,” Lewis said.

The recognition marks the second national honor ASU received in July. The Chronicle of Higher Education named ASU to its list of “Great Colleges to Work For” in 2009. The Chronicle is the primary national source for job listings in higher education.