

Proposal to Update the National Ranking Publications List

March 2016

In the latest version of its 2012-2025 Strategic Plan approved in November 2014, the Board of Governors included several performance indicators under the category of “promoting excellence.” One of those indicators, “National Rankings for Universities” included the Princeton Review and USA Today ‘Best Value Public Colleges’ as one of 13 publications in a list that could be used to evaluate progress toward the Board’s 2025 goals. However, the *Princeton Review and USA Today* have discontinued their joint ‘Best Value Public Colleges’ list. Board staff are proposing to update the Board’s official list of National Ranking publications by replacing the discontinued publication with a new *Princeton Review* publication, “Top 50 Colleges That Pay You Back”, which is similarly focused on evaluating institutions based on academics, affordability, and career prospects for graduates. The *Princeton Review’s* new “Top 50 Colleges That Pay You Back” ranking publication evaluates more than 40 data points covering academics, costs, financial aid, debt, grad rates, and career/salary data from more than 600 postsecondary institutions.

Board of Governors List of National Ranking Publications

- Adjustment: Replace the discontinued *Princeton Review and USA Today* ‘Best Value Public Colleges’ with the *Princeton Review* ‘Top 50 Colleges That Pay You Back’ rankings. The complete list of ranking publications includes the following publications:

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| 1. US News and World Report: National Public Universities |
| 2. Washington Monthly: National Universities |
| 3. Center for Measuring University Performance (Public Only) |
| 4. Times Higher Education World University Rankings |
| 5. QS World University Ranking |
| 6. Academic Ranking of World Universities |
| 7. Washington Monthly: Liberal Arts Colleges |
| 8. Forbes |
| 9. Kiplinger Best College Value (In-state students) |
| 11. US News and World Report: Liberal Arts Colleges |
| 12. Princeton Review and USA Today: Best Value Public Colleges |
| 12. NEW: Princeton Review: Top 50 Colleges That Pay You Back |
| 13. Fiske Guide to Colleges: Best Value Public Colleges |