



News Release

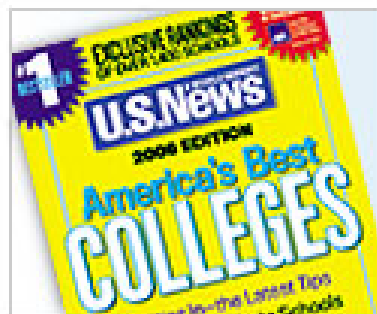
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Keuka College Checks in at No. 26 in 2006 *U.S. News* College Guide

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.— In the 2006 edition of “America’s Best Colleges,” published by *U.S. News & World Report*, Keuka College is ranked No. 26 out of 68 schools in the northern comprehensive colleges—bachelor’s category.

Both the weekly edition of *U.S. News* containing the college rankings and the newsstand book, “America’s Best Colleges,” will hit newsstands Monday, Aug. 22.



“I am delighted that *U.S. News* recognized the quality of our academic programs with a top 40 percent ranking in our category,” said College President Joseph G. Burke. “It also says a lot about the quality of and our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.”

The top 35 schools in Keuka’s category were ranked and the remaining were placed in two tiers or broad groups based on their overall score.

By *U.S. News* definition, schools in the comprehensive colleges—bachelor’s category focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs—in the liberal arts, which account for fewer than half of their bachelor’s degrees, and in professional programs such as business, nursing and education. There are 324 comprehensive colleges ranked within four regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

“Our ranking in this category reinforces our reputation as the national leader in experiential, hands-on learning,” said Burke.

The *U.S. News* rankings of comprehensive colleges are based on 11 indicators of academic quality including assessment by administrators at peer institutions, average freshman retention rate, average graduation rate, percent of classes under 20 students, percent of classes with 50 students or more, student/faculty ratio, percent of faculty who are full time, freshmen in the SAT/ACT 25-75th percentile, freshmen in the top 25 percent of their high school class, acceptance rate, and the average alumni giving rate (the average percentage of alumni who gave to their school during 2002-03 and 2003-04).

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Only four of the 68 colleges in Keuka's category had a higher average alumni giving rate (32 percent).

"The average alumni giving rate is just one way to measure alumni satisfaction, but this does reinforce our contention that we are doing a good job of preparing students for life after college," said Burke.

Other strong indicators for Keuka include student/faculty ratio (13:1), percent of faculty who are full-time (78), percent of classes under 20 (51), and percent of classes of 50 or more (1).

Burke contends that student satisfaction should be added to the indicators employed by *U.S. News* to determine the rankings, and suggested the magazine examine such national surveys as the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

"However, I believe *U.S. News* does as good a job as possible in evaluating one college against another," said Burke.