

Princeton Review picks Pitt State one of the ‘Best in the Midwest’

Pittsburg State University is one of the “Best in the Midwest,” according to the recently released Princeton Review’s annual rankings of American colleges and universities. The Princeton Review’s annual ranking lists are online and in the new 2006 edition of its book “The Best 361 Colleges” (Random House / Princeton Review, \$21.95).

The Review based its rankings on student surveys, which asked students to rate their schools on several topics and report on their experiences at them. Topics include: academics/administration, life at the school, their fellow students, and themselves.

When the Review surveyed Pitt State students, they gave high marks to the close, caring relationships they have with faculty and to the quality of the academic programs on campus.

The Review noted that nearly everyone they surveyed believed his or her academic department deserved special recognition.

“Accounting and marketing students gush about the business college curriculum,” the Review wrote. “Graduating future teachers reluctantly leave behind the nurturing College of Education, where instructors ‘have all been out there in the real classrooms and know exactly what it’s like.’ Respondents to our student survey describe with superlatives the College of Technology, psych classes and the social work program.”

Pitt State students gave high praise to faculty and staff who seemed to genuinely care about them.

“Professors cultivate a ‘classroom environment that resembles a family atmosphere,’ A senior majoring in English writes. ‘Once a student settles in to their upper-division major courses, most professors become friends who are easy to talk to if there’s any sort of problem and take a general interest in your life.’ In other words, ‘If you miss class, your teachers want to know why,’” the Review wrote, adding that “Small classes and an ‘easy-to-navigate’ campus usually come with a much higher price.”

Pittsburg State University President Tom Bryant said that the Review’s survey results didn’t surprise him. “Solid academic programs and outstanding faculty who genuinely care about students are at the heart of what Pittsburg State is all about,” Bryant said. “I know that matters to students because I hear it from them every day.” The Review also noted that Pitt State students quickly form close campus connections with each other.

“The easy camaraderie that develops between Pitt students testifies to the power of school spirit,” the Review wrote. “‘Most of us take a lot of pride in our school, and that makes for a wonderfully unified student body.’ Dorms provide ‘an instant community made up of a variety of people that have at least the school in common.’”

For more information, visit the Princeton Review Web site at <www.princetonreview.com>.