

MC enjoys lofty rankings

U.S. News and World Report rating out Friday

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Marietta College has received recognition and high rankings from three national publications, topped off Friday with a spot among the top 10 baccalaureate colleges in the Midwest in by U.S. News and World Report.

In the past two weeks, the college has also been recognized as one of America's best colleges by Forbes.com and as one of the superior colleges in the region by the Princeton Review.

"We have to pay attention to these because they're important to the students, parents and alumni," said Marietta College Provost Rita Smith Kipp. "It certainly can give us an edge to be higher up on those lists and makes a better case for Marietta."

Marietta College, with an enrollment of more than 1,500 students, ranked No. 9 among baccalaureate colleges in the Midwest in the annual U.S. News and World Report list released Friday, where it has received high rankings for the past 20 years.

MC also ranked fourth in the Midwest under the category of "Great Schools, Great Prices," in the magazine's 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges." Tuition and fees at the college is \$26,080 with the average student cost \$16,674 after grants.

Colleges and universities were judged by percentage of full-time faculty, which is 87 percent at Marietta College; student/faculty ratio (12 to 1), peer assessment, academic excellence and percentage of classes with less than 20 students (68 percent).

"Size makes a big difference in the experience you have, especially as a freshman or sophomore," Kipp said. "Many students tell us they were also thinking about Ohio University or Ohio State University and may even start there and experience an introductory class of 350 students. That's when they look again at Marietta College and the small colleges."

Marietta College junior Julie Boyce said the size of MC was a factor in her college choice.

"It has smaller class sizes and it just feels like a community," she said, in a release. "It really has a small-town quality."

Boyce was one of the students who contributed information to Forbes.com as its first list of the country's best colleges was being compiled.

Forbes named Marietta College the 168th best college in America, out of about 4,000 undergraduate schools.

For its rankings, Forbes measured alumni success, student evaluations, debt level at graduation, percentage of students graduating in four years and the number of students or faculty who have won nationally competitive awards.

In the Princeton Review's 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region, MC was one of 150 colleges named a "Best Midwestern College."

The 630 colleges ranked as regional bests across the country represent only about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.