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## UMC Ranked “Best College” for Seventh Year

The University of Minnesota, Crookston, (UMC) has been ranked one of the best public colleges in the Midwest for a seventh consecutive year, according to *U.S. News and World Report's* rankings for 2005. UMC was again ranked among the top three colleges in the category “Top Public Midwest Comprehensive Colleges–Bachelor's.”

The 2005 rankings were made public Friday, August 20, at the *U.S. News* website <[www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)>. UMC also receives the recognition in *U.S. News and World Report's* annual “best colleges” issue which will be released August 24.

“The recognition of UMC by *U.S. News and World Report* acknowledges our dedication to educational excellence. We are a unique part of the University of Minnesota, and our faculty and staff are committed to our students and our polytechnic mission. With the addition of new programs this fall; such as communications, health science, and computer software, we will continue our pursuit to offer students the best in educational experience and opportunity,” said UMC Chancellor Velmer S. Burton, Jr.

UMC's category, Top Public Comprehensive Colleges–Bachelor's, contained 324 comprehensive colleges categorized into four geographical regions of the U.S.—North, South, Midwest, and West. According to *U.S. News* these institutions 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 fields such as business, nursing, and education.

According to *U.S. News*, the method of ranking colleges and universities consists of three basic steps. The schools are first categorized by size, mission, and region. In the spring data is gathered from each institution regarding several indicators of academic excellence, including academic reputation; retention of students; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; graduation rate performance; and alumni giving. Each factor is assigned a weight that reflects *U.S. News's* judgment about how much each measure matters. Finally, the colleges in each category are ranked against their peers, based on their composite weighted score.

UMC is beginning its twelfth year as a baccalaureate degree granting university. It is also the college's twelfth year of providing laptop computers to all full-time students and faculty members.

To see all the 2005 *U.S. News* rankings online, go to <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm>