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'College of Distinction'

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A panel of education professionals, guidance counselors and parents selected the University of Dayton for inclusion in the 2008-09 edition of Colleges of Distinction.

"A University of Dayton degree is powerful preparation for whatever comes next: launching a career; gaining admission to graduate, law or medical school; or spending a year in service," Colleges of Distinction wrote in its evaluation on its Web site. "Employers know that UD graduates have developed the skills and qualities they need to succeed. (UD) graduates consistently take jobs with the nation's best firms and are accepted into top graduate programs. Many seniors receive multiple job offers months before graduation."

Instead of looking for the most wealthy or most famous schools, Colleges of Distinction creates a guide by looking at which colleges are the best places to learn, to grow, the success of their graduates, the quality of their teaching and the atmosphere of their campuses.

Colleges of Distinction used four criteria to choose 40 colleges in six U.S. geographical regions for the list. Schools must be nationally recognized by education professionals, employ outstanding teachers who provide innovative learning experiences, have an active campus and community that allows for personal development and be highly valued by employers for its outstanding preparation.

"The schools in this group are some of the very best in the country. Some are household names, some are 'hidden in plain sight;' what they all share is that they are great places to get an education," said Wesley L. Creel, president and founder of Colleges of Distinction.

This is the latest in a list of accolades for the University of Dayton this year. The University maintained its ranking as a top-tier national university by U.S. News & World Report. Forbes.com listed UD among the top 15 percent of colleges and universities in the U.S. The Princeton Review named UD one of The Best 366 Colleges nationally.

Student Horizons Inc. produces Colleges of Distinction. UD applied to be considered for the publication.

Other Ohio colleges and universities making the list include Baldwin-Wallace College, Ohio Northern University, Hiram College, Ohio Wesleyan University, Mount Union College, Lake Erie College, University of Findlay and Defiance College.

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