

## The Princeton Review names SUU one of the “Best in the West” again!



For the second year in a row, *The Princeton Review*, which focuses on identifying outstanding colleges and universities in each region, has designated Southern Utah University as one of the “Best in the West” colleges and universities. SUU made the list because of notable ratings in

Academics, Quality of Life, Admissions Selectivity, and Financial Aid.

*The Princeton Review* made its decision by asking current students more than 70 multiple-choice questions about their respective schools. Students also had the opportunity to share their opinions through short-answer responses.

Some of these responses are quoted on *The Princeton Review's* website, ranging in topic from the university's size and financial affordability to its outstanding academics and convenient location.

Students commented on SUU's friendly atmosphere, with one saying, “Everyone smiles and says ‘Hello’ when you walk through campus.”

Other comments described the school's typical student as “studious, but fun” and saluted them for their school pride and caring ways.

Several of SUU's academic entities received praise from students, as well, particularly its College of Education, School of Business and College of Performing & Visual Arts.

Undergraduates expressed appreciation for the

personalization that the school's smaller size offers, citing the opportunity to get to know professors and participate more in classroom discussions as valuable. SUU professors “are here to teach,” wrote one student. “They are paid to teach, rather than to publish. Many do publish on the side, but you can count on them to be there every class to teach. SUU is truly a diamond in the rough.”

Its location near outdoor recreational areas also earned the University accolades. SUU's location “is an amazing plus for being active in the outdoors,” one undergraduate wrote. “We have skiing 30 minutes away, as well as hiking, mountain biking, ice climbing, snowshoeing, camping, and so much more! Cedar City is a gateway to so many national parks.”

This is the third time in just over a year that SUU has been honored on a national basis for the excellent educational experience it provides its students.

Last year, SUU made its debut as one of the “Best in the West” colleges and universities on *The Princeton Review's* list. Just months before, *Consumers Digest* magazine designated SUU as one of the top 10 universities in the nation for quality and value.

“This is, to say the least, outstanding news,” **Dean O'Driscoll ('83)**, SUU's Director of Marketing and Public Relations, and Special Assistant to the President, states. “*The Princeton Review* is a highly-regarded agency. To receive an endorsement from them, not once but twice, just gives all the more validity to the differences students experience when they choose SUU.”

### **SUUPER** STUDENTS

**F**our Southern Utah University students were honored as part of the first-ever Governor's Scholars program November 4, 2005, at the Governor's Mansion in Salt Lake City.

Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. hosted the event, which honored the top four freshmen and sophomore students from each of Utah's colleges and universities. In total, 44 scholars were chosen and presented with plaques on academic achievement.

The students were chosen by the presidents of their colleges and universities, and the criterion for being selected was their demonstration of academic excellence.

SUU's students included: Alesha Given, a sophomore chemistry major from Henderson, Nevada; Sarah Hiatt, a freshman music major from Pleasant Grove, Utah; Caitlin Holladay, a freshman communication major from Cedar City, Utah; and Sean Vanhille, a sophomore general education major from Centerville, Utah.

Also in attendance was Richard E. Kendell, commissioner of higher education, and several of the college and university presidents throughout the State of Utah.

The Governor told the students at the luncheon to find their “genius inside” early, and develop it to the fullest. He

encouraged them to continue to commit to academic excellence. “This award gives you a glimpse into the future and is meant to inspire you and remind you there is more to come,” Huntsman said.

The Governor's Scholars program is aimed at encouraging higher standards and greater scholarship among some of Utah's most promising higher education students. Additionally the Governor's Scholar Award was designed to encourage more Utah students to prepare and apply for prestigious post-graduate scholarships early in their college careers.