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TAMPA, Fla. (Aug. 29, 2005) - The University of South Florida is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review. The New York-based education services company features USF in The Best 361 Colleges, the new 2006 edition of its annual "best colleges" guide. Only about 15 percent of the four-year colleges in America and two Canadian colleges are in the book.

The book features its popular ranking lists, based on student surveys, where it lists the top 20 schools in categories from academic rigor to campus living. Of those lists, USF is ranked 18th on the Diverse Student Population list.

The book also has two-page profiles on the schools, and USF's profile commends the school as "an up-and-coming public university that is just about to make [its] mark."

"This is yet another indication of USF's progress toward becoming one of America's top public research universities," said USF President Judy Genshaft. "Our primary mission is serving students, and we are proud that those surveyed for this publication spoke so highly of the education they received."

"The main factor in our selection of schools was our high regard for their academic programs," said Robert Franek, Vice President of Publishing for The Princeton Review. "We evaluated them based on institutional data, feedback from students and visits to schools over the years. We also considered the opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents we talk to and survey."

The ranking lists in The Best 361 Colleges are based on The Princeton Review's survey of 110,000 students attending the colleges in the book. Students rated their schools on several topics and reported on their campus experiences at them. Ranking list categories range from best professors, administration and campus food to lists based on student body political leanings, interests in sports and other aspects of campus life. The Princeton Review posts the book's ranking lists on its Web site.

The college profiles in The Best 361 Colleges also include candid comments from students surveyed at the schools. Among the student comments in USF's profile on academics: "Even in large lecture courses, professors are reputed to be intelligent, friendly and available outside the classroom. As USF is a respected educational pillar of the Tampa Bay community, students can easily translate academics into career and internship opportunities in the city."

The Best 361 Colleges is the 14th edition of The Princeton Review's annual "best colleges" guide. It is one of over 200 Princeton Review books published by Random House. The Princeton Review, known for its education, admission and test-prep services, is not affiliated with Princeton University or ETS.