

Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings: Readers React



Stanford University was the No. 1 school in the inaugural WSJ/THE College Rankings. PHOTO: LINDA A. CICERO/STANFORD NEWS

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The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings generated a strong response from readers. More than 700 comments were posted on articles about the rankings and other feedback emerged from emails.

This response is invaluable. A goal of the WSJ/THE rankings is to examine schools from the same perspective as parents and prospective students. Feedback and suggestions help us evaluate the rankings.

Incomplete government data

The College Scorecard is not a legitimate data source for any serious college rankings system. The Department of Education is misleading the American public when it refuses to acknowledge institutions like ours, despite results that meet or exceed metrics of success established by the federal government. Instead of proffering a rankings tool that uses flawed government data, The Wall Street Journal would've better served its readership by examining the shortcomings and omissions of the Scorecard rather than legitimizing it.

With graduation rates, job placement rates and a return on investment that far exceed national averages, students and families need to know that Grove City College would have been ranked highly—if only we depended upon taxpayer dollars to operate. It defies logic that a well-run, academically excellent and fiscally responsible institution is being erased from rankings that have been designed to recognize these very traits.

Future editions of the WSJ/THE college rankings should not be based on inaccurate and incomplete data sources like the College Scorecard. I urge you to correct the current edition of the rankings by listing all eligible colleges and universities that were excluded simply because they do not accept federal funding. The public deserves to know exactly what your new rankings system presents—and why.

— Paul J. McNulty, president, Grove City College