



Summer 8-13-1999

## IWU Ranked 12th Among "Top 100 Values in Private Colleges"; Kiplinger Magazine Gauges Quality vs. Cost of Education

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "IWU Ranked 12th Among "Top 100 Values in Private Colleges"; Kiplinger Magazine Gauges Quality vs. Cost of Education" (1999). *News and Events*. 848.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/848>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Aug. 13, 1999

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## **IWU Ranked 12th Among "Top 100 Values in Private Colleges"; Kiplinger Magazine Gauges Quality vs. Cost of Education**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's top 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost.

IWU is tied for 12th place with Princeton University and Dartmouth College.

IWU is ranked ahead of several Ivy League campuses, including Harvard University, Yale University, and Columbia University.

The Kiplinger survey also ranks IWU ahead of other liberal-arts campuses including Carleton College, Williams College, Macalester College, Lawrence University, and Middlebury College.

"Kiplinger has ranked Illinois Wesleyan near the top of private colleges and universities nationally in terms of quality and cost," said James Ruoti, IWU dean of admissions. "This is the strength of our market position. Top quality at an affordable price is an unbeatable combination in the competitive higher-education marketplace. This offers consumers—students and their families—the best of both worlds."

Ruoti pointed out that IWU has constructed about \$60 million in new facilities during the 1990s, and has a \$23-million library and a \$6 million student center on the drawing board. "These projects," he explained, "are designed to offer our students new educational challenges and wider social experiences. Yet, while adding 'quality' to the campus, IWU has had a balanced budget for more than 30 years."

The survey appears in the September, 1999, edition of Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine. The article is headlined: "Private Colleges Worth the Price: When is a prestigious school a great value? When it's affordable, too."

"Welcome to Kiplinger's first review of private universities," the article said, "where to make the cut a school must pass both academic and financial tests."

The article added: "This year, we looked for gems among the nation's 1,600 private schools, once again putting ourselves in the shoes of parents who want excellence for their children but who also care how much it costs."

Kiplinger said its purpose in looking at the balance between quality and cost was to see "what other schools rise to the top."

"Among them," Kiplinger reported, are names you might not have expected to see in the top 25," including Illinois Wesleyan.

"All are selective schools," Kiplinger said, "that score well on quality measures but that also get a significant boost from low costs or generous financial aid."

The Kiplinger article also observes: "As you'd expect, many of our best-value schools are tough to get into. Only four of the top 25 admit more than half of all applicants: Grinnell (number 3), University of Chicago (6), Illinois Wesleyan (12), and Carleton (19)."

Kiplinger based its ranking on data supplied by Peterson's, the Princeton, N.J., publisher of college guides, supplemented by Kiplinger's reporting.

Among data used by Kiplinger were SAT scores above 600 (verbal and math), admission rates, freshmen returning for the sophomore year, four-year and six-year graduation rates, students per

faculty member, how many undergraduate classes are taught by graduate assistants, total cost, cost after need-based aid, percent of students receiving merit scholarships or grants, and the average debt of college graduates.

IWU has drawn kudos from other college guides and magazines.

101 of the BEST VALUES in America's Colleges and Universities said: "Undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country, Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."

The Fiske Guide to Colleges observed: "Students who like to be involved thrive at IWU. The family and community-like atmosphere of Illinois Wesleyan makes it a place where a student can learn and grow and have fun doing it. Students feel part of the institution, like each one is contributing to something—shaping a University into an experience."

Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education said of IWU: "With the addition of a new science facility and equipment, the undergraduate program could surpass that at any national university."

U.S. News & World Report ranks IWU among the 50 most selective national liberal-arts colleges.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium.