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Illinois Wesleyan Moves Up In *Kiplinger's* Best College Values

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan moved up two places to 58th among the nation's private liberal arts colleges in *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* "Best Value Rankings." This marks the eighth consecutive year that Illinois Wesleyan has been included among the national leaders in this ranking of academic quality and affordability.

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"The *Kiplinger's* ranking has special meaning to us," said President Richard F. Wilson, "because it recognizes our strong academic program and commitment to making a Wesleyan education affordable for students and their families."

Illinois Wesleyan has also been ranked among the top liberal arts colleges nationally in recently released college rankings including *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" ranking (73rd) and *Washington Monthly's* rankings of the "Best Private Colleges" (43rd).

The *Kiplinger's* rankings measure academic quality and affordability. Academic criteria include the student admission rate (the number of students accepted out of those who apply), the test scores of incoming freshmen, the ratio of students to faculty members, and the four- and five-year graduation rates. On the cost side, *Kiplinger's* measures the sticker price, the availability and average amount of need-based and merit-based financial aid, and the average student debt at graduation.

"We salute this year's top schools," says Janet Bodnar, editor of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. "Balancing top-quality education with affordable cost is a challenge for families in today's economy, which is why *Kiplinger's* rankings are such a valuable resource. The schools on the 2015 list offer students the best of both worlds."

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