

U.S. News & World Report meets with controversy

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U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT MEETS WITH CONTROVERSY

U.S. News & World Report, which has ranked Princeton University as the nation's top college for the eighth consecutive time, has met with some controversy. A number of colleges have opted not to provide further information to the magazine. According to Lloyd Thacker, a former college counselor who heads the Oregon-based Education Conservancy, *U.S. News & World Report* "has distorted and skewed how admissions are perceived." Thacker, who says colleges should not be ranked on the basis of a uniform scale, is leading the nationwide opposition to the 24-year-old *U.S. News* rankings. Groups including the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), the Council of Independent Colleges, the Education Conservancy, and the Annapolis Group are working to develop an alternative system for collecting college information.

CUOMO INVESTIGATES STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAMS

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has initiated investigations into relations between colleges and third-party providers of study-abroad programs for students. According to Cuomo's office, some schools are receiving perks, including cash incentives, from vendors—a practice that benefits schools and vendors but not students. The attorney general has begun issuing subpoenas to organizations involved in providing study-abroad programs to schools. The move was instigated by a recent *New York Times* article that highlighted perks being offered by vendors to build relationships with colleges and encourage them to register their students for the vendors' study-abroad programs.

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY PROMOTES FINANCIAL AID OFFICERS

Illinois Wesleyan University's financial aid office has appointed two of its members to new roles. Lynn Nichelson, director of financial aid at the university, will take over as assistant dean of enrollment management. Nichelson previously served on the U.S. Department of Education's Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Loan Issues. He was also the 2002 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the College Board Midwestern Regional Assembly. Scott Seibring, director of new student financial aid, has been appointed director of financial aid. Seibring, who has had nine years of admissions office experience, has served the school's financial aid office for 13 years. His responsibilities will include managing the financial aid staff, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the office, and packaging financial aid.