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Lindenwood Named A College of Distinction

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LINDENWOOD NAMED A COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

February 1, 2021

Lindenwood University has been recognized for its honorable commitment to engaged, experiential education by [Colleges of Distinction](#), which is celebrating its 20-year anniversary as a one-of-a-kind guide for college-bound students. Colleges of Distinction boasts its longstanding support for student-centered schools that traditional rankings often overlook. As an institution whose primary goals are based on student success and satisfaction, Lindenwood University confirms its honor as one of the renowned Colleges of Distinction.

In addition to placement on the Colleges of Distinction list, Lindenwood University was recognized in five additional categories as indicated on the [school's profile page](#). The Business and Education academic programs received recognition for their demonstrated success in the classrooms and engaged faculty. Lindenwood was also recognized for a commitment to Equity & Inclusion, Career Development, and Military Support which play a vital role in supporting students.

Founder Wes Creel traces Colleges of Distinction's beginnings back to when he was helping his eldest daughter search for schools. The institutions that dominated the rankings were drowning out all the others, and not speaking to what the student experience would be like. He then created Colleges of Distinction to draw more attention to schools like Lindenwood whose student-centered education prevails in applying theory to practice while fostering a dynamic learning community.

While higher education has changed over the last 20 years, Colleges of Distinction's selection process has stayed consistent—conducting in-depth research and detailed interviews with the schools themselves about each institution's freshman experience and retention efforts alongside its general education programs, career development, strategic plan, student satisfaction, and more—and accepting only those that adhere to the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. Overlaid in the last few years have been a look into High-Impact Practices. This model prioritizes the opportunities institutions have for students that make for a fulfilling, individualized college experience.

“Each school is different, just as every student is different,” said Creel. “There is no number-one college for everyone, so we never rank those in our cohort.” Lindenwood's inclusion is informed by the unique ways it commits to achieving success.

Creel and his colleagues found that the most pervasive rankings systems rely on metrics like peer reputation, size of endowment, and alumni salaries. They knew instead that most critical to the student experience were the kinds of engaging experiences that are found at Lindenwood: UNIV courses for first-year students, talented faculty engaged in student internship and research, career and professional development offerings, and outstanding student support services.

Creel continued, "It's inspiring to see Lindenwood commit to the learning styles and community involvement that will best allow their students to thrive."

About Colleges of Distinction

Since 2000, Colleges of Distinction has been committed to honoring schools throughout the U.S. for true excellence in higher education. The member schools within the Colleges of Distinction consortium distinguish themselves through their dedicated focus on the undergraduate experience. Its website provides dynamic college profiles, customized tools, and resources for students, parents, and high school counselors. For more information, and to learn how to become a College of Distinction, visit CollegesofDistinction.com.