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### BETHANY RISES IN TOP COLLEGE RANKINGS

LINDSBORG, Kan.—Earning the highest spot for a Kansas college in its category, Bethany College has been ranked as 30th in the Midwest region of U.S. News and World Report’s 2010 “Best Baccalaureate Colleges”.

A rise from last year’s 37th-place rank, which itself was a significant increase, this also marks the third straight year that Bethany has been classified in the top tier of the Midwest region.

“The annual ranking gives us a solid measure of the improvements we’ve made and what areas still require attention,” said Dean of Recruitment and Marketing Tricia Hawk. “But students who visit Bethany know that we are more than a ranking. Students choose Bethany because of the variety of paths they can choose and because they know Bethany will help them achieve their goals,” she said. “The ranking is a way of telling our story to those who may not know it already.”

“While this ranking provides Bethany an occasion to celebrate, the college rankings system is also a way for us to review the quality of opportunities available at Bethany in comparison to the offerings of our peers,” said Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III.

Since about 75% of a school’s ranking is based on indicators of academic quality, with the other 25% based on peer assessment, “Bethany’s continued high ranking validates our institution as both academically strong and highly respected in the Midwest region,” he said.

Bethany also had high rankings in several key indicators in its category, including:

- 4<sup>th</sup> in “Proportion of Classes Under 20”
- 6<sup>th</sup> in “Campus Ethnic Diversity”
- 9<sup>th</sup> in “Average Amount of Need-Based Aid Awarded”
- 10<sup>th</sup> in “International Students”

Bethany was ranked slightly above Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kan., at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Dana College, Blair, Neb., at 45th.

Dana is a sister college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Other Lutheran colleges ranked in the Midwest region included Augustana College (third) and Carthage College (11th). The baccalaureate colleges category includes schools that focus on undergraduate education and grant fewer than 50 percent of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. The baccalaureate colleges are divided into four regions.

The ratings appeared in the “America’s Best Colleges” report by U.S. News and World Report. The magazine annually evaluates accredited four-year schools. For more information, visit [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges).

Bethany College, established by Swedish Lutheran immigrants in 1881, is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The mission of Bethany College is to nurture and challenge individuals in their search for truth and meaning as they lead lives of faith, learning and service. Bethany College is on the Web at [www.bethanylb.edu](http://www.bethanylb.edu).