

LOCAL NEWS

Clemson among 3 state schools ranked as top 100 'best values'

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Three South Carolina public universities are listed among the top 100 "Best Values in Public Colleges" for 2009 by Kiplinger's magazine.

The publication's February edition ranks Clemson University No. 34, followed by the University of South Carolina at No. 60 and the College of Charleston at No. 70.

Clemson's ranking this year compares with a No. 33 ranking in 2008. USC was ranked 35th last year, while the College of Charleston was ranked No. 70.

For out-of-state students, Clemson ranked No. 23 in 2009; USC No. 73 and College of Charleston No. 69 on the "best value" chart.

The magazine also ranked the "best values" for liberal arts schools and this year Wofford place 42nd, followed by Furman at No. 45.

Furman also was named to the Princeton Review's

list of 100 "Best Value Colleges" for 2009, according to a press statement from the school.

The Kiplinger's list recognizes the nation's public and private universities that provide what it calls "a first-rate education without breaking the bank." For the public colleges, the magazine researched more than 500 colleges and universities to "come up with the list of the top 100.

Kiplinger's bases its rankings on a number of factors, including undergraduate enrollment size, SAT/ACT scores, student-faculty ratio, graduation rates, total costs before and after financial aid and average debt at graduation.

Other public schools ranked from the Southeast include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which ranked No. 1; University of Florida, No. 2; University of Virginia, No. 3; University of Georgia, No. 4; Georgia Tech, No. 16; Florida State, No. 17; and North Carolina State, No. 18.