Clemson named top 'jock school' in U.S.

Annual review lauds university's sports fervor, career center

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Clemson University is the nation's top "jock school" and has the best relations with its college town, according to top 20 lists in the Princeton Review's new "Best 371 Colleges" book that hit newsstands last week.

The "jock school" category recognizes popularity of intercollegiate and intramural sports.

The top "town-gown" accolade comes in a year when the city of Clemson became home of the headquarters of a national organization dedicated to improving relations between schools and their college towns.

In addition to Clemson's two first-place rankings, the university ranked second for happiest students and its Michelin Career Center ranked third nationally among career services.

"Isn't that awesome?" said Flora Riley, director of the career center.

The Michelin Career Center ranked fourth two years ago and eighth last year, she said.

"Our goal is to prepare the students. We want to give them tools they can use beyond that first job," she said. "We think of ourselves being teachers."

Between 75 percent and 80 percent of the Clemson student body have some type of contact with the career center during their academic career, she said. That could be career testing, workshops, classroom sessions, job fairs, employer interviews or other contacts.

"We know who are customers are — primarily our students," she said, adding that parents, faculty and employers also are customers of the center.

Clemson made 10 top-20 lists in the annual publication.

Abby Daniel, Clemson's undergraduate student body president, said athletics — both intercollegiate and intramural sports — create "a common bond" among students.

Football fever, though, is the biggest common denominator, the senior biological science major said.

"It's one thing to come onto campus at Clemson on a normal class day and see people you know and feel like you belong," she said. "But it's a whole different thing to walk outside on a Saturday morning and see a sea of orange and thousands of people out participating and supporting Clemson."

The good relationship between the university and the city has earned Clemson high marks for years, and it has now become a model for the nation in scholastic and municipal relations, said Chip Boyles, executive director of the Clemson-based International Town and Gown Association.

The association, established last year, grew out of work done by a committee of city and university officials that dates back more than 20 years, he said.

The report says students gave the city of Clemson "mixed reviews," with some saying "there isn't much to do" and others saying it's filled with "neat shops and restaurants."

"Ultimately, this tight-knit campus is a place where everyone comes together for a common cause," the report says.

Clemson ranked fifth in intramural sports participation and 10th in quality of life.

Clemson ranked 14th in having conservative, right-leaning students; 15th in the "Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution" category; and



Tigers abound at Clemson. Staff file



Staff file

Clemson University is the top "jock school" in the nation, according to the Princeton Review's new "Best 371 Colleges."

17th in athletic facilities.

Clemson ranked 20th on a list of schools that "run like butter," a student rating of administration.

All of the 371 colleges included in the book offer great academics, said Robert Franek, author of the book and vice president and publisher of The Princeton Review.

The book's 62 top-20 ranking lists are based on surveys of 122,000 students at the 371 schools in the book. They are asked about their school's academics, administration, campus life, student body and themselves in order to help future students choose the school best suited for them.