

North Georgia named a 2011-12 Best-Value Public College by Kiplinger's Personal Finance

1/4/2012 9:44:22 AM

Share|

(Jan. 3, 2012) — North Georgia College & State University has been named to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance's* list of 100 best values in public colleges in the nation for 2011-12. The ranking cites four-year schools that combine outstanding education with economic value. North Georgia, also named to the list in 2010, is one of only three public universities in Georgia to be named to the list. The others are the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech.

"We are extremely proud to be included on this list because it evaluates both academic quality and affordability for our students," said Dr. Bonita Jacobs, president of North Georgia College & State University. "This ranking confirms North Georgia's position as a leading institution in the University System of Georgia and nationally."

Kiplinger's assesses quality and affordability according to a number of measurable standards. This year, *Kiplinger's* revamped the rankings to give more weight to academic value, such as the percentage of students who return for sophomore year and the four-year graduation rate. Cost criteria include low sticker prices, abundant financial aid and low average debt at graduation. While the criteria have shifted, the overall focus on value remains the same.

"As states cut funding for higher education and tuition continues to climb, the word 'value' is more significant than ever," said Jane Bennett Clark, senior editor at *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*. "This year's top 100 public schools deliver strong academics at reasonable prices. We applaud these institutions for tightening their belts without compromising quality."

The annual public school rankings appear in *Kiplinger's* February 2012 issue and online at: www.kiplinger.com/links/college. Web visitors will find special interactive features including FAQs about the public colleges ranking, and data sortable by criteria such as state, tuition cost, average debt, student/faculty ratio, and admission rate.

North Georgia College & State University is a public, liberal arts university with more than 50 programs of study in pre-professional, professional, graduate and doctoral programs. It is the state's second-oldest public university. North Georgia's leadership development and international education experiences have earned it designation as a state Leadership Institution by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

As one of only six senior military colleges in the United States, North Georgia is designated as the Military College of Georgia. North Georgia's full-time Army ROTC Corps of Cadets comprises about 12 percent of the university's enrollment, which numbers more than 6,100 students this year.

