



Press Release
For Immediate Release
Contact: Danielle N. Kobryn, 845.398.4016, dkobryn@stac.edu

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS A TOP-TIER UNIVERSITY: ACCOLADES POUR IN FOR GROWING COLLEGE

(SPARKILL, NY – September 18, 2013)– St. Thomas Aquinas College has been named a Top-Tier Regional University (North) this month by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2014 Best Colleges annual report, announced STAC President Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.

"The entire St. Thomas Aquinas College community is proud to be recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*," said Fitzpatrick. "We have been ranked highly by multiple external reporting agencies over the years. We have always considered our students and faculty to be Top Tier and this is a tribute to the entire College Community."

The rankings include over 1,400 schools nationwide and are based on survey information collected and by peer ratings conducted by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In an August 2013 edition of *Forbes Magazine*, St. Thomas Aquinas College was ranked in the Top Tier for its financial health among colleges and universities nationwide.

In the recent online listing of *Affordable Colleges* St. Thomas Aquinas College was ranked 47th as a Top College among 472 NYS colleges and universities for return on investment. This website conducted a study of the New York State colleges and St. Thomas earned the accolade for low tuition rates and higher lifetime earnings for alumni.

The **2014 Colleges of Distinction** designation was earned by St. Thomas Aquinas College in both the New York and Catholic editions. The accolade is earned by colleges and universities who excel in the key areas: alumni success; quality of its teaching faculty; and the atmosphere on its campus. In addition, these colleges take a holistic approach in its admissions decisions and have strong national reputation.

St. Thomas Aquinas College received the 2013 and **2014 Military Friendly School** designation by the organization for doing the most to embrace the military service members, veterans, and their families and ensure their success on campus. St. Thomas provides a Yellow Ribbon Scholarship to all eligible veterans, enabling them to receive up to a full tuition scholarship each year they are eligible. In addition, St. Thomas offers a West Point and Stewart Air Force base program for active military and an online associates and master's degree at a deeply discounted rate for active military members.

St. Thomas Aquinas College earned the **2013 President's Community Service Honor Roll** designation by the Corporation for National and Community service for their commitment to bettering its communities through service. This federal designation points to many of the activities that students and employees are involved in such as serving the homeless with Midnight Runs and a multitude of student run activities that benefit the greater community.

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"We've continued to grow our campus and our offerings. St. Thomas students and alumni are the beneficiaries of our growth and maturity as an institution and this latest accolade is a reaffirmation of what we are and where we are going as a premier liberal arts college," Fitzpatrick added.

St. Thomas Aquinas College transitioned to an Academic School model for the 2012-2013 academic year, restructuring the former academic divisions to the new Schools of Arts & Sciences, Business and Education. In 2012 the College opened the Spartan Athletic Complex. The Complex sits on 12 acres and is home to the Spartans' men's and women's soccer teams, the women's softball team, and the women's lacrosse team. The College recently renovated its residence halls and plans to continue with another residence hall renovation in 2014. The College has expanded its graduate education offerings to include a M.S.Ed. in Special Education with a specialization in Autism and an advanced certificate in Autism and continues to offer its M.B.A. program with online, on-campus and hybrid options.

St. Thomas Aquinas College is an independent liberal arts college located on 60 acres in Rockland County, NY which provides education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The College's 2,800 full and part time students can choose from more than 100 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across three Schools: Arts & Sciences, Business, and Education. The College is recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* in the Top-Tier for Regional Universities, by Colleges of Distinction in both its New York and Catholic editions, by Affordable Colleges Online as a top College in New York for Return on Investment, and is included as a Military Friendly School®. St. Thomas Aquinas College is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; its School of Education is accredited by National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); and its School of Business is accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). For more information, visit www.stac.edu.