



National Council on Teacher Quality

For Immediate Release
September 30, 2015

Contact: Dan Glaser, dglaser@nctq.org
202-393-0020 ext. 117

NATION'S TOP 25 'BEST VALUE' COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TEACHER QUALITY

Ratings factor both quality and affordability; each state's top five 'best value' schools identified

WASHINGTON – Today, the [National Council on Teacher Quality](http://www.nctq.org) (NCTQ) released its 'Best Value' ratings of colleges of education across the U.S.—the first time that a national education policy organization has conducted a comprehensive measure of quality that also factors in affordability, average teacher salary in each state, and the ability to prepare future teachers for the realities of the classroom.

Colleges of education listed as “Best Value” scored highest on a combination of quality and affordability factors, taking into account net price to attend school—including tuition, fees, and average financial aid awards—average teacher salary in that state and how well the school prepares future teachers for the realities of the classroom as shown on [PathToTeach](http://www.pathtoteach.org).

[Western Governors University](http://www.western.edu), [City University of New York-Hunter College](http://www.cuny.edu) and [City University of New York-Brooklyn College](http://www.cuny.edu) were recognized as the nation's top three 'Best Value' colleges of education out of 1,100 education schools and programs examined nationally.

New York offers the highest number of high quality and affordable teacher preparation programs—capturing seven schools in the top 25 and half of the Top Ten spots. California and Louisiana each had three schools in the top 25.

Based on an A-F grading scale and standardizing measures to allow comparison (such as salaries adjusted for equivalent purchasing power), a total of 416 programs received a grade of A or B across 35 states. NCTQ has listed the top five “Best Value” schools in each state, although not all states had five schools and several had none. The full list can be viewed [here](http://www.nctq.org) on the NCTQ website.

“While there are an unlimited number of guides to help people buy products, from the right car to the right refrigerator, when it comes to picking the best college of education, one of the most important decisions one can make, people are left to fend for themselves,” said Kate Walsh, president of National Council on

Teacher Quality. “We are pleased to empower future teachers so they can focus on student growth rather than worry about gaps in their own training or if they’ll be able to pay back a mountain of debt.”

Along with the top 25 ‘best value’ schools, NCTQ this week launched a new free search tool, [Path to Teach](#), allowing any member of the public to quickly find meaningful, reliable information about the quality of over 1,100 schools of education that prepare over 200,000 new teachers every year.

Schools and programs included in the Best Value analysis range from undergraduate to graduate and those that specialize in elementary or secondary preparedness.

The Best Value colleges of education announcement comes on the heels of the release of a [New America report](#) concluding that when finding a teacher training program “some students faced difficulty locating important information” and a “lack of information or misinformation can hinder a student’s enrollment and graduation.”

Measures of quality on Path to Teach originated from the [National Council on Teacher Quality](#), which grades teacher preparation institutions on a set of comprehensive standards identified by public school educators as the knowledge and skills every new teacher needs. The methodology was refined by a [non-partisan group of leading education deans, professors and researchers](#) and overseen by some of the [nation’s leading economists and statisticians](#). The standards reflect best available [research](#) and best practices from high performing states and nations.

Measures of affordability used in the Best Value calculation came from the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES):

- [Data](#) showing each **institution’s average net price**: According to NCES, institutional net price is defined as “the average yearly price actually charged to first-time, full-time undergraduate students receiving student aid at an institution of higher education after deducting such aid.” Net price provides students and families with an idea of how much a first-year, full-time undergraduate student who was awarded aid pays to attend a particular institution after grant or scholarship aid is subtracted from the published cost of attendance.
- Estimated 2013-2014 **average annual salary** of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools: Average salary in the state is considered a general predictor, as most graduates end up teaching in that state and often move schools over the courses of their careers.

About the National Council on Teacher Quality

The National Council on Teacher Quality is a non-partisan research and policy group committed to restructuring the teaching profession based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. We recognize that it is not teachers who bear responsibility for their profession's many challenges, but the institutions with the greatest authority and influence over teachers. To that end we work to achieve fundamental changes in the policy and practices of teacher preparation programs, school districts, state governments, and teachers unions. Our [Board of Directors](#) and [Advisory Board](#) come from a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives, and they all believe that policy changes are overdue in the recruitment and retention of teachers. More information about NCTQ can be found on the NCTQ website, www.nctq.org.

Top 25 U.S. 'Best Value' Colleges and Programs of Education

#	School	Program	Best Value Score
1	Western Governors University	Secondary (UG)	77.05211974
2	CUNY - Hunter College	Secondary (G)	77.04840202
3	CUNY - Brooklyn College	Secondary (G)	75.70324867
4	CUNY - Hunter College	Secondary (UG)	74.18340202
5	CUNY - York College	Secondary (UG)	73.18447353
6	Fort Hays State University	Secondary (UG)	72.30080937
7	Henderson State University	Secondary (UG)	71.53220018
8	CUNY - Hunter College	Elementary (UG)	71.31090202
9	Montclair State University	Secondary (G)	71.13637969
10	University of California - Los Angeles	Secondary (G)	71.02094472
11	University of California - Irvine	Secondary (UG)	70.7633351
12	College of William and Mary	Secondary (G)	70.54487836
13	Northwestern State University of Louisiana	Elementary (UG)	70.34633603
14	Southeastern Louisiana University	Secondary (UG)	69.64200404
15	Lipscomb University	Secondary (UG)	69.49051614
16	University of California - San Diego	Secondary (G)	69.47885938
17	CUNY - Hunter College	Special Education (G)	69.39840202
18	Austin Peay State University	Secondary (UG)	69.33427573
19	University of Houston	Secondary (UG)	69.02057708
20	University of Arkansas at Monticello	Secondary (UG)	68.80929593
21	Northwestern State University of Louisiana	Secondary (UG)	68.75633603
22	Utah Valley University	Secondary (UG)	68.74321383
23	Texas A&M University	Elementary (UG)	68.70567234
24	SUNY College at Old Westbury	Secondary (UG)	68.60855316
25	University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma	Secondary (UG)	68.5456531

