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Report: Vandy among 'best value' schools

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Vanderbilt University ranks No. 15 as one of the nation's universities with the best value, says "Kiplinger's Personal Finance."

Vanderbilt held the same ranking last year in Kiplinger's list of schools that combine economic value with exceptional education.

"Families hit by the economic downturn may feel that private institutions are out of their financial reach, but they will be surprised by our findings," says Janet Bodnar, editor of Kiplinger's. "Most of the top-notch schools on the Kiplinger 100 offer generous financial aid packages."

As a result of a seven-year initiative to reduce student debt, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos said in October that Vanderbilt would replace need-based student loans with institutional grants and scholarships beginning in fall 2009.

California Institute of Technology was the top ranked university on the list, followed by Yale, Princeton, Rice and Duke.

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