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University lauded for accomplishments in diversity

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CARBONDALE - SIU is getting positive reviews from a publication dedicated to diversity issues.

The magazine "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" published its annual Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers and its Top 10 Degree Producers: Graduate and Professional rankings in recent issues. SIUC earned recognition in 29 undergraduate and 15 graduate categories, officials said.

"These rankings reflect the culture of our campus and the commitment of our faculty, students and staff. I am encouraged by the rankings, but also know we must continue to make even greater progress," Chancellor Rita Cheng said.

SIU earned top ranking for awarding education bachelor's degrees to African-American students and was fourth for education degrees awarded to all minorities.

The campus was third for both African-American and total minority bachelor's degrees, sixth for Asian American and Native American degrees and ninth for Hispanic bachelor's degrees in engineering technologies and engineering-related fields.

Linda McCabe Smith, associate chancellor for institutional diversity, said the university has broken into the top 100 for bachelor's degrees in all disciplines awarded to minority students.

"That's a very positive factor. In the past, we never made this list, so this is progress. It really shows our diversity and inclusivity," McCabe Smith said.

University Communications provided the information for this report