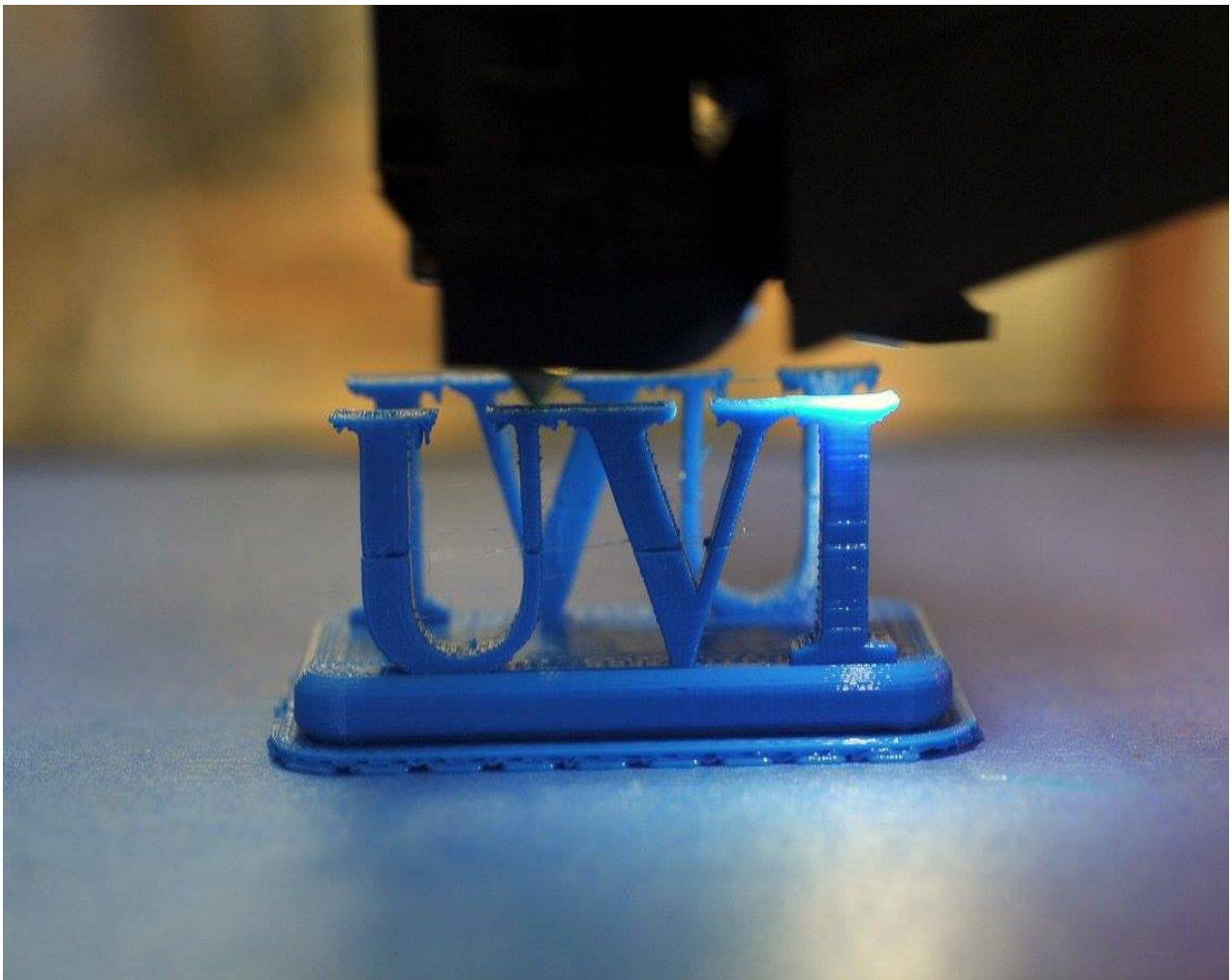


The Virgin Islands Consortium

UVI Jumps to 6th Spot in Southern Region for Top Public Schools, Ties for 35th in Top Colleges in Southern Region Category

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The University of the Virgin Islands, citing U.S. News & World Report's "2022 Best Colleges" ranking published Monday, said it has climbed to the sixth spot, [a tie with Kentucky State University](#), for top U.S. public schools in the southern region.

In addition to jumping from the seventh to the sixth spot in the southern district for top public schools, UVI also [ranked 35 among southern Regional Colleges](#) — an increase from last year. Additionally, UVI ranked 42 on the social mobility measure.

“UVI’s improved marks reflect our ongoing commitment to excellence, student achievement and the offering of robust financial aid programs to support our students in reaching their goals,” said UVI President, Dr. David Hall. “In our global environment where UVI vies for students from around the world, we are pleased to be recognized by a respected authority on college rankings and to rank among our region’s finest schools.”

UVI said U.S. News & World Report publishes the Best Colleges list annually based on the evaluation of more than 1,400 colleges and universities in the U.S. on 17 measures of academic quality. The latest is [here](#).

To make reasonable comparisons between colleges and universities, schools are grouped into different categories based on academic mission and geographic region. In the Best Colleges rankings, UVI is categorized as a Regional College located within the southern region. Ranking factors include graduation and retention rates, undergraduate academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources per student, alumni giving rate, graduate indebtedness, and social mobility. The social mobility indicator measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.

According to the report, students receiving these grants typically come from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually, though most Pell Grant money goes to students with a total family income below \$20,000.

UVI said it is offering a variety of financial aid programs and scholarships, in addition to the free tuition program for USVI students, to make attending college affordable. In August, UVI introduced several major financial supports for qualifying students including debt forgiveness, free housing and a \$500 technology award to assist students during the pandemic.

“As we approach our 60th year of serving the Virgin Islands, we could not be more proud of our growth as an institution and for the honor of being nationally recognized once again,” said Dr. Hall. “We are grateful for the collective efforts of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors who continue to propel UVI forward in our quest for excellence and innovation and to make a positive impact in the Virgin Islands, in our region and beyond.”