

Bad News Continues

USM Remains in Bottom Tier of *U.S. News* Ranking

HATTIESBURG – With the release of the 2014 edition of Best Colleges from *U.S. News & World Report*, usmnews.net has learned that USM remains in the bottom tier of national colleges and universities with a ranking of “RNP” or rank not published. According to [U.S. News & World Report](#), “Rank Not Published means that U.S. News did calculate a numerical rank and score for that school, but decided for editorial reasons that since the school ranked below the U.S. News cutoff – the top three-fourths of each ranking category are numerically ranked – that U.S. News would not publish the rank and score for that school on usnews.com.” Stated in the simplest terms, USM fell some place in the bottom quarter of schools. usmnews.net does not know where in the bottom quarter the school fell because “[s]chools marked as Rank Not Published are listed alphabetically.”



USM’s position in the bottom tier has become common place. USM first fell to the bottom tier under former president Shelby Thames, but that was temporarily rectified in the first year of former president Martha Saunders’ tenure. However, the next year USM returned to the bottom tier where it remained throughout the subsequent portion of Saunders’ 2008 – 2011 time as USM’s ninth president. USM’s tenth president, Rodney Bennett is faced with a university somewhere in the bottom quarter of ranked universities.

***Editorial Comment:* Students must consider long and hard whether a degree from USM is worth their time, effort, and money. Regardless of what USM’s in-house public relations staff and marketers claim, USM has a long history of being firmly mired in the bottom tier. USM’s public relations and marketing staff are charged with image development, which appears to have little or no connection to the reality of USM providing quality education.**