2015

How important are those college rankings?

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Recommended Citation
Romero, Aldemaro Jr., "How important are those college rankings?" (2015). CUNY Academic Works.
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/bb_pubs/896

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It's official. The official plaque identifying the Glen Carbon Heritage Museum as being on the National Register of Historic Places was recently placed outside the entrance of the door. This plaque, placed near the corner Stone, on the west side of the street, signals that when the building was built over 100 years ago, it was a beautiful building that has served the community well since its erection in 1914. Visitors are invited to view this historic plaque and visit the museum with the exhibits on display and the collection of artifacts. The museum will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for one month, or until the end of August.

September through April hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For the intelligencer.com.

Regional

How important are those college rankings?

We're still in the midst of a college rankings cycle and it's a good time to take a second look at what these rankings actually do (and don't) measure.

By Bill Tucker

The annual college rankings from U.S. News & World Report (USNWR) are going to be released sometime this month, so now would be a good time to take a closer look at what these rankings actually measure and what they tell us about a college.

The USNWR rankings, which are based on a variety of factors including graduation rates, faculty-to-student ratios, and alumni giving, are one of the most widely used measures of college quality. However, there are several reasons to be skeptical of these rankings.

First, the rankings are based on a limited number of metrics that don't necessarily reflect the overall quality of a college. For example, the rankings don't take into account factors such as the diversity of the student body, the quality of the faculty, or the success of students in pursuing their goals.

Second, the rankings are based on subjective judgments and are not based on a transparent and objective methodology. This makes it difficult to know how the rankings are calculated and why certain colleges are ranked higher than others.

Finally, the rankings are often used to make decisions about where to send a child to college, which can have a significant impact on their future. However, there are many other factors to consider when choosing a college, such as location, size, and the type of education offered.

So, while college rankings can be a useful tool for comparing colleges, it's important to remember that they are not a perfect measure of college quality and that other factors should be considered when making a final decision.