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Students Graduate with "Low Burden of Debt"

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – The fear of college debt is one of the most talked about stories in the United States for good reason—it can keep students from pursuing a college degree. Cedarville University understands the issue, which is why it held tuition for current students this year.

And, as a result of significantly increasing financial aid over the past five years, and helping students become more creative in finding outside scholarships, Cedarville University is ranked 17th out of 50 Christian colleges for having the “Lowest Debt Burden,” according to Christian Universities Online.

“College affordability is important to us at Cedarville which is why we continually look for ways to control internal costs that won’t have a negative impact on the academic and spiritual excellence on campus,” said Kim Jenerette, executive director of financial aid. “We have significantly increased institutional scholarships and grants over the past five years.”

The criteria for the rankings were the cumulative amount of debt of each school’s 2013 graduating class and the percentage of students who took out loans. According to U.S. News & World Report, 65 percent of Cedarville’s class of 2013 took out loans; their average debt was $29,390. One year later, the class of 2014 graduated with an average debt of $21,975—more than $10,000 lower than the national average. The data includes all loans except for parental loans.
In addition, Cedarville students maintain one of the lowest student loan default rates in higher education at 1.4 percent. The national average is 13.7 percent; the average among all Ohio universities is 16.7 percent.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,620 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings.