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HSU makes 'colleges with a conscience' list

By The Times-Standard

ARCATA -- Humboldt State University is among schools recently recognized by the Princeton Review as leaders in fostering social responsibility and public service.

A new Princeton Review book, "Colleges With A Conscience," features HSU as one of 81 outstanding institutions in 33 states recognized by the review and Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 950 college and university presidents committed to supporting the public purposes of higher education.

"A college with a conscience has both an administration committed to social responsibility and a student body actively engaged in serving society," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review vice president for admission services.

Each year, HSU undergraduates volunteer more than 35,000 documented hours through classes and clubs to the local community. The university is heralded internationally for its Campus Center for Appropriate Technology and Schatz Energy Research Center among others.

HSU was first in the nation to institute a student graduation pledge. In the words of Student Coordinator Andrea Tyler, "We pledge to remain active, critically conscious thinkers in every new situation we encounter."

Seniors voluntarily promise to work hard for a better world, putting public service hand in hand with their careers, worldwide. The pledge, conceived in 1987 by HSU students, faculty and Arcata's City Council, is voluntary and places no restrictions on choice of employment.

The text reads: "I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organization for which I work."

Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Notre Dame, and Stanford followed suit with their own pledges, as did universities in Australia, Canada, Mexico and Taiwan.

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