SAN FRANCISCO, August 26, 2013 – AffordableCollegesOnline.org (AC Online) – today’s number one resource for college affordability and financial aid information – has identified the nation’s top English & Humanities programs for lifetime return on investment. Graduates from these schools enjoy the largest earnings gap between non-degree holders over thirty years, and earn more on average than English & Humanities graduates from other schools.

“It’s important to select a major field that you’re passionate about,” said Dan Schuessler, founder of AC Online. “But it’s also important to find a college -- and a program -- that offers the best chance to turn passion into paycheck.”

AC Online developed the following criteria for consideration as a “High ROI English & Humanities program”:

- Total weighted cost (provided by IPEDS)
- 30-year Net ROI (provided by PayScale.com)
- 4-year degree-granting institution
- Fully accredited institution
- Must offer English & Humanities at the undergraduate level
- Private, for-profit institutions excluded

AC Online compiled a list of schools meeting these criteria by using the following authoritative data sets:

- NCES (http://nces.gov/), the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education. It provides consistent, reliable, complete, and accurate indicators of education status and trends.

- IPEDS (http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/), the primary federal source for data on colleges, universities, and technical and vocational postsecondary schools in the U.S.

- Carnegie Classification (http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/), a framework widely used in the study of higher education, both as a way to represent and control for institutional differences, and also in the design of research studies to ensure adequate representation of sampled institutions, students, or faculty.

- PayScale.com (http://www.payscale.com/about/methodology), the premier salary data collection organization.

About AC Online

Affordable Colleges Online provides students with information about affordable higher education options. The website offers financial aid videos, expert advice, and cost savings ideas. AC Online is a trusted resource for college stats and rankings. Most recently the site launched a feature that provides students with a categorized directory of free online introductory, or "101", classes from several top named U.S. universities such as MIT, Michigan and U.C. Berkeley.
RANKINGS: http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-rankings-online/english-humanities-colleges-roi/

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