



# News Release

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## Ridgewater Ranked #3 Among Minnesota Technical College rankings

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HUTCHINSON and WILLMAR, MN – Ridgewater College received #3 honors among Minnesota’s best trade schools, according to a national review of the Best 500 Trade Schools published by Vocational Training HQ.

“Trade schools are making a comeback,” states the organization’s website. “For decades, a four-year college degree was synonymous with success. In today’s ever-changing world, that is no longer the case. Many high-paying careers are based on training from trade schools.”

So the Vocational Training HQ organization evaluated trade schools throughout the country to help students find the school that best fits their needs, states its website at <https://www.vocationaltraininghq.com/best-trade-schools/>.

The evaluation considered six key categories for which it graded trade schools and technical colleges. School curriculum, faculty scholarship, and program range/diversity held the most weight, while reputation, online reputation, and financial aid were considered as well.

In the Ridgewater College summary highlights, it states, “The reason why students decide to study at Ridgewater is high-quality education.” It continues, “The great thing related to enrollment is that there is no application fee!”

“The value of a technical education is incredible,” said Jeff Miller, dean of instruction for technical programs at Ridgewater. “When students understand the affordable value of a public institution versus a private one for technical training and education, it’s easy to understand why so many choose public options like Ridgewater.

“Industry demand is high or very high for many careers for which Ridgewater educates its students,” Miller added. “It’s why many of our technical students enjoy 100% placement rates in their field upon graduation.”

In 2020, 68 percent of jobs require some postsecondary education or training, Miller said. Ridgewater College offers high-wage, high-skill, or in-demand programs in a variety of discipline areas.

In Minnesota’s top 10 Best Trade Schools ranking, Anoka Technical College took top honors, with Pine Technical and Community College at #2.

For more information about Ridgewater College, go to [www.ridgewater.edu](http://www.ridgewater.edu).

Ridgewater College is a community and technical college with campuses in the central Minnesota communities of Willmar and Hutchinson. The college serves more than 5,000 students through its nearly 100 academic programs and more than 68,000 training hours for individuals and businesses through customized training and continuing education. The college is a member of Minnesota State and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

*Minnesota State includes 30 community and technical colleges and 7 state universities serving approximately 400,000 students. It is the fourth-largest system of two-year colleges and four-year universities in the United States.*

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