Indian River State College (IRSC) has been ranked as the 10th top public regional college in the Southern United States by U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 rankings of Best Colleges. Over 1,300 colleges and universities were ranked based on 16 measures of quality, including student/faculty ratio, class size, faculty credentials, and retention and graduation rates. The ranking method is adjusted annually with increased emphasis over the past several years on output measures that look at student success. As a result, the IRSC ranking has moved from the 12th best position in 2012 to the 10th best spot in 2013.

With more than 150 instructional programs, IRSC continues to make a significant and positive regional impact by providing a well-qualified workforce directly aligned to the employment needs of business and industry. During the 2011/2012 academic year, 3,008 students earned a Bachelor’s or Associate Degree from IRSC, and another 1,237 students were awarded a Technical Certificate. During the past 11 years, every IRSC graduating class has been larger than the previous one.

“We are dedicated to helping each student achieve academic and career success,” said Dr. Edwin R. Massey. “That commitment is demonstrated by IRSC faculty and staff every day, and it’s their dedicated efforts that have placed IRSC in the Top 10 among Southern regional colleges.” IRSC was ranked in the regional college category, which includes colleges that focus primarily on teaching and undergraduate education. The ranking data reflect the College’s commitment to excellence in teaching. All IRSC courses are taught by well-qualified and experienced faculty, rather than graduate assistants which is often the case at large universities. Over 90 percent of IRSC faculty hold a doctorate or master’s degree in their teaching disciplines. In addition, IRSC’s student/faculty ratio is 23:1, enabling students to benefit from personal attention from their professors.

The US News and World Report ranking is the latest in a series of recent national recognitions for IRSC. In July, IRSC was designated as the 5th most affordable college in the country based on the U.S. Department of Education Affordability and Transparency Report.