Eastern moves up in rankings

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University moved up seven places among regional universities in the north in this year’s U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 edition of “Best Colleges.”

Eastern shares a six-way tie for 85th place among public and private universities in the north.

Eastern was also tied for 26th place among public universities in the north. The annual rankings were released this morning.

Eastern was the highest ranked university among the four Connecticut state universities and this year’s ranking was Eastern’s best yet.

Regional universities such as Eastern are ranked on the basis of 16 criteria that include peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, admissions selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

The North Region includes colleges and universities from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

“I am gratified to see Eastern achieve its highest ranking ever in this year’s U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 Best Colleges report,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez.

“Our commitment to academic excellence, our focus on student engagement and the introduction of new majors have resulted in strong scores for such criteria as academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources and alumni giving. Students and their families turn to the Best Colleges rankings to help decide where to attend college. These new rankings reaffirm that Eastern is providing a quality, affordable liberal arts education on our beautiful residential campus.”

This year’s U.S. News & World Report rankings included reviews of 1,374 schools nationwide and are available at www.usnews.com/colleges.

They will also be published in the Best Colleges 2017 Guidebook, published by U.S. News & World Report and available on newsstands Oct. 4.

Over the past two decades, the U. S. News & World Report rankings, which group colleges based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, have grown to be the most comprehensive research tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities.