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Penn and Southern Cal Top Ranking of Good-Neighbor Colleges

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The University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California are the higher-education institutions most engaged with their local communities, according to survey results presented today at a conference in Philadelphia.

The [survey](#), called "Saviors of Our Cities: 2009 Survey of College and University Civic Partnerships," ranked 25 colleges and universities in terms of their contributions to the communities surrounding their campuses.

Penn was recognized for improving schools in West Philadelphia, while Southern Cal was cited for a program that helps provide funds for new businesses in Los Angeles. Other institutions on the list included the University of Pittsburgh, for helping revitalize Pittsburgh neighborhoods, and Tulane University, for providing medical care to the neediest residents of New Orleans.

Evan S. Dobbelle, president of Westfield State College, in Massachusetts, wrote the survey questions and distributed it to colleges and universities across the country. Members of the Westfield staff then selected some institutions for campus visits and interviews. The results were presented at the annual conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.