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Ames Tribune
By Bob Zientara, Staff Writer

Magazine: Ames High among best

Service to all students, not just those bound for college, and measurable outcomes in education make Ames High School one of the best in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report.

In a ranking published in late November and posted online this week, the national magazine says Ames is one of only two Iowa high schools to earn silver medal rankings in its annual survey. John F. Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids was the other school. No Iowa school earned gold medal ranking.

The magazine surveys some 19,000 high schools each year.

Working with SchoolMatters. com, a service of Standard and Poors, the magazine analyzed academic and enrollment data of public high schools in 40 states. The investigation used data from the 2005-06 school year.

The process followed three steps:

- Does the school serve all its students well?
- Do state proficiency standards prove the students are served?
- Does the school do a good job of preparing students for college-level work?

This designation speaks volumes for the comprehensive programs daily delivered at Ames High by our outstanding teachers and administrators, Ames Superintendent Linda Beyea said.

According to Ames Principal Mike McGrory, the magazine bases its awards on key principles that a great high school must serve not just those who are bound for college, but also be able to produce measurable academic outcomes that show the school is successfully educating all its students.

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