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Contact: My College Planning

Michael P. Zoli, President

Emails: mpzoli@mycollegeplanning.com

Office - 315-428-8406 Fax – 315-428-8488

John J. Ruman, Vice President

Emails: jjruman@mycollegeplanning.com

Office - 315-428-8414 Fax – 315-428-8488

Record Numbers of Rejections Reported from U.S. Colleges

Dartmouth, Brown, University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, Swarthmore, and Stanford all report record rejections for both early and regular admissions this past academic year. Why? Applications have increased substantially over the past few years with more high-school students graduating. But ease of online applications is a critical factor. While the “Common Application” is currently accepted at more than 270 colleges and universities nationwide, Michael Zoli of My College Planning believes that colleges and universities are using the online system to increase their ratings in such national venues as US News and World Reports. Selectivity among academic institutions means, in the strictest sense, “applications to admissions ratio,” or the number of students admitted compared to applicants and acceptance rate is a major criteria for US News and World Reports. By having a larger number of applicants, schools can become more selective in shaping the school’s learning environment, and by lowering their acceptance rate, a school can move up on these very beneficial rankings. How does this affect the average student? “Students need to pay careful attention to their college choices, making sure that they apply to schools that fit them academically, as well as emotionally,” Zoli pointed out. “Also,” Zoli suggested, “classify schools based on your academic rankings and make sure that you have a safety school or two in the mix – average students may need to apply to more than six schools to increase their acceptance ratios.”

My College Planning is a company that focuses on helping families make informed decisions on their college finances. The staff consists of certified college planning specialists to help solve families' college financing issues. For more information please visit www.MyCollegePlanning.com

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