

## **Albany touted as top place for recent college grads**

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ALBANY -- Richard Florida, the well-known economist and urban theorist, says the Capital Region is one of the top 25 areas. The ranking posted on The Daily Beast and Florida's own website has the Albany area as the 23rd best place for 2010 college graduates. Ithaca tops the list.

In fact, most of the list is curiously dominated by towns -- like Lawrence, Kan., or Madison, Wis. -- with large college-age populations, suggesting that recent grads should just stay put when school is over.

To compile the survey, Florida says he examined data from a Gallup poll that attempted to determine what the young want in a hometown. He then ranked the cities based on factors such as the size of the 20-24 population, income levels, the abundance of rental housing, unemployment rates, creative energy and "youth-oriented amenities."

Florida writes that college towns dominate his ranking because "they have high percentages of young, highly educated singles; they provide an affordable alternative to bigger cities while still delivering a high quality of life; and they've proven to be among the most resilient communities during the economic downturn."

Big cities like Boston, New York, Los Angeles and Seattle also made the top 25.