

## **We're the smartest: Treasure Coast, Palm Beaches make up Florida's brainiest region**

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The West Palm Beach-Fort Pierce-Vero Beach metro area is the smartest in Florida, but tied with Cleveland for brain power on a nationwide scale, according to The Daily Beast Web site.

The Daily Beast, an Internet-only news outlet, ranked the 55 most populated metro areas in the nation and placed the Treasure Coast and West Palm Beach region 31st on the list, with Tampa-St. Petersburg at 33, Jacksonville at 37, Miami at 39 and Orlando 46.

The Daily Beast based its rankings on the number of residents with bachelor's degrees and graduate degrees, according to the U.S. Census; political engagement; available institutions of higher learning; and nonfiction book sales, as tracked by Nielsen BookScan. Out of a score of 200, with average considered 100, the local region scored 97.

Atop the list was Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, primarily for hosting Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, along with the technology incubators in the Research Triangle.

Second was San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif.

At the bottom end, Las Vegas and Fresno, Calif.

### U.S. SMARTEST LIST

1. Raleigh-Durham
2. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose
3. Boston
4. Minneapolis-St. Paul
5. Denver
6. Hartford-New Haven
7. Tacoma
8. Washington, D.C.

9. Portland

10. Baltimore

#### FLORIDA'S SMARTEST REGIONS

31. West Palm Beach-Fort Pierce-Vero Beach

33. Tampa-St. Petersburg

37. Jacksonville

39. Miami

46. Orlando

Source: The Daily Beast

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