

Case Study



Blackburn College

Unique four-year private liberal arts college has decades-long relationship with hard-working, ROI-producing CAMS® Enterprise academic ERP

With a history spanning three different centuries, Blackburn College, a four-year private liberal arts college in Carlinville, Ill., is dedicated to learning and working.



One of just seven federally recognized “work colleges” in the U.S., **Blackburn College** is the only such institution with a student-managed work program. Residential students are required to spend at least 10 hours a week working on campus in exchange for reduced tuition, thus making Blackburn the least-expensive private residential college in the state.



While the work program was begun in 1913 to help deserving students of limited financial means, the emphasis today is on the opportunities for learning, leadership, individual responsibility and self-reliance that come with work experience. Working harder and smarter are bywords at the Blackburn, and the industrious beaver is its mascot.

So it's no wonder then that Blackburn College with its tradition of blending a liberal arts education with the pragmatism of hard work is a long-time user of a **CAMS Enterprise**, the academic ERP that works as hard and as smart as they do. In fact, Blackburn's use of Three Rivers Systems academic management systems even predates CAMS Enterprise.

When Chuck Sutphen, who now manages CAMS at Blackburn, was the school's only full-time IT department employee in 1988, he used a DEC VAX system. As more advanced technology became available for higher education, Blackburn migrated with Sutphen's assistance to a Novell Netware system running CAMS DOS in 1993.

Nearly 20 years later, after upgrading from CAMS DOS to CAMS Windows, then in 2007 to third-generation product, CAMS Enterprise – all built from the ground up exclusively for higher education – Blackburn has never once considered abandoning Three Rivers System according to Sutphen.

“Our administrators have looked at several products over the years, but none came close to matching the ROI and total cost of ownership we get with CAMS Enterprise,” he said.

In addition to offering the best system, Three Rivers Systems according to Sutphen, boasts unmatched technical support from its client services department. “We've always been able to count on them for help, and we work in partnership,” he said. “The company always listens to us when we provide feedback, and we've worked closely on the development of enhancements and new features.”

As the only all Web-native ERP, CAMS Enterprise has helped Blackburn College leverage the Internet thus creating a sea change in improved services, he added. Sutphen also lauded CAMS for upgrading its data server to the powerful Microsoft SQL.

Blackburn College Provost Jeffery P. Aper, Ph.D. agrees. "CAMS is a system that offers us ongoing opportunities to learn how to work smarter, not just harder. We continue to grow in our institutional capacity to maximize the benefits of the system, and I look forward to significant progress in this regard over the next couple of years."

A fully integrated system with true mobility, business analytics, cloud offerings and integrated portals, CAMS Enterprise eliminates the need for academic institutions and end users alike to learn, interface and manage a patchwork of often incompatible systems. These features and others make it an ideal choice for colleges and universities seeking higher returns from their IT infrastructure investments and those needing to keep up with expansion.



About [Blackburn College](#)

Founded in 1837, Blackburn College is a four-year, Presbyterian-related, co-educational liberal arts college located in Carlinville, Ill. Blackburn was recently ranked by *US News* as the 2012 #2 Best Value College in the Midwest; and placed #65 in *The Washington Monthly's* ranking of Baccalaureate Colleges. Blackburn's unique culture requires that its students learn to work in a team environment in order to accomplish common goals — whether in the classroom, workplace, athletic field or committee. Within this realm, opportunities for leadership emerge as students work together to solve problems or create new ways to conduct the work of the college. For the student willing to take advantage of these opportunities, the potential for personal growth is significant. The college has historically been a magnet for first-generation students, who in their drive to succeed have found Blackburn's culture stimulating and a place where their personalities can be molded into that of true leaders. As a consequence, Blackburn alumni have risen to become leaders of prominent organizations.

About [CAMS Enterprise](#)

CAMS Enterprise's [disruptive](#) technology makes it a fundamentally different academic ERP unlike all others that were designed for the past and are incapable of operating efficiently in the modern world. CAMS Enterprise is an easy-to-use and implement, totally integrated, Web-native management system with everything in one place — admissions; student information; financial aid; student services; fiscal management with HR and payroll; fund-raising; alumni relations; document management, learning management, a full suite of portals, and more for managing the entire student life cycle. With an out-of-the-box configuration and self-service customization, CAMS Enterprise removes all barriers to success seen with conventional systems. CAMS' affordable licensing, off-the-shelf configuration and easy implementation translate into the lowest total cost of ownership of any academic ERP while yielding the quickest and highest ROI.

Source: Blackburn College



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