

## ACI Welcomes New Presidents to Blackburn College, North Park University and Principia College

Aug. 1, 2018

When the new academic year opens in August, three of ACI's 25 member colleges and universities will have new presidents.

[Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten](#), left, was named interim president of [Blackburn College](#), Carlinville, effective July 1. Braaten who recently retired after serving as president of Ferrum College in Virginia, was appointed after Dr. John L. Comerford left Blackburn as president to become president of Otterbein University in Ohio. Braaten will serve in the role while a search continues for a permanent president.



New presidents: Dr. Jennifer Braaten, Mary SurrIDGE and Dr. Jolanda Westerhof.

[Mary K. SurrIDGE](#), center, will become president of [North Park University](#), Chicago, at the start of the new academic year, succeeding Dr. David L. Parkyn, who retired last year. SurrIDGE, the university's vice president for advancement since 2008, was nominated by the board of trustees earlier this year. Her nomination was approved in June by delegates representing the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), North Park's founder and sponsoring denomination, at the ECC's Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Carl Balsam is serving as interim president through Aug. 15.

[Dr. Jolanda M. Westerhof](#), right, became president of [Principia College](#), Elsah, in March, succeeding Dr. Jonathan W. Palmer. Before she became Principia's president, she was associate vice president and director of Teacher Education for the Academic Leadership and Change Division at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.