

Blackburn College Appoints Dr. Julie Murray-Jensen its 17th President

Nov. 19, 2018



Dr. Julie Murray-Jensen,
Blackburn College's
incoming president

The [Blackburn College](#) Board of Trustees appointed [Dr. Julie Murray-Jensen](#) the college's 17th president, beginning Jan. 14, 2019. Murray-Jensen is currently vice president of enrollment and external affairs and executive director of the KCC Foundation for Klamath Community College (KCC), Klamath Falls, Oregon.

"Out of a pool of 79 candidates, Julie's skills and experience appeared to be a great fit for Blackburn," said Blackburn Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Hazel Loucks. "After our interviews she proved to be the perfect person for us. It is with enthusiasm that we look forward to a bright future with Julie as our next president."

"I enthusiastically accepted the position of President at Blackburn College because I believe there is no better model for higher education than what Blackburn proudly provides—broad quality liberal arts

education coupled with strong work-based job skills to make our students the most competitive in the world for 21st century careers," said Murray-Jensen.

According to a Blackburn College news release, Murray-Jensen spearheaded fundraising and capital campaigns, retained numerous grants for KCC, oversaw the school's Small Business Development Center, and focused on community education and outreach. She implemented enrollment efforts and strategies and grew enrollment by 12 percent, the release said.

She previously served as vice president of external programs and vice president of student services at KCC. Murray-Jensen has held previous positions with University of Virginia, Pacific University, University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburgh, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Bowling Green-Ohio, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master's degree in education from Bowling Green-Ohio and a doctorate from Oregon State University. Her teaching experience includes business leadership, intercultural human resources, college success, and health and wellness.

She succeeds Dr. John Comerford who left earlier this year to become president of Otterbein University in Ohio, and Dr. Jennifer Braaten, who has been the college's interim president this academic year.