

## **ACI members step up to help students enrolled at MacMurray College**

*Jacksonville college to close after 174 years*

April 14, 2020



Several ACI colleges and universities in Central and Western Illinois have stepped up to help students enrolled at Jacksonville's [MacMurray College](#) when the college closes at the end of the academic year in May.

In late March, the board of trustees of MacMurray College decided to close the 174-year-old college, citing longstanding financial problems, compounded by declining enrollment, rising competitive costs and a small endowment. The COVID-19 health emergency complicated matters, but it was not a principal reason for the closure, said Board Chair Charles O'Connell. The college has 527 enrolled students, and the closure means that students not graduating will need to enroll at another college to complete their degrees.

To help MacMurray College students, staff negotiated transfer agreements with several colleges and universities within a two-hour radius of the school, according to the Jacksonville Journal-Courier newspaper. At least six institutions are ACI members: [Blackburn College](#), Carlinville; [Eureka College](#), Eureka; [Illinois College](#), Jacksonville; [McKendree University](#), Lebanon; [Millikin University](#), Decatur; and [Monmouth College](#), Monmouth.

According to the Journal-Courier, academic credits MacMurray students have earned will be valid after the college closes. Partner institutions will offer transfer agreements and scholarships, said MacMurray College President Beverly Rodgers. They have also agreed to waive policies for transferring MacMurray students that would require them to attend a minimum number of class hours to graduate at each partner institution, Rodgers added.

MacMurray College is a former ACI member institution. It was one of [22 charter members](#) of ACI when it was formed in 1952.