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MBU's Intelligent Planning Yields 18 Years of Academic ERP Success

March, 2008 – When Missouri Baptist University (MBU) began their search for an Academic ERP solution 18 years ago, they knew it would be perhaps the most important IT investment in their institution's history. With a regularly scheduled accreditation evaluation coming up from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, coupled with increased demands from its student population, MBU needed not only a solution that was built from the ground up to implement quickly, but a vendor committed to keeping its institution on top of campus administrative technology for years to come.

This savvy university got it right, and not only did they receive high marks from the Accreditation Review Team, they received praise for having installed a robust computer network with good control and security, and an all encompassing Academic ERP solution able to deliver effective service to students – MBU had secured their future as a premier Christ-centered university in the mid-west. The solution that helped them was CAMS (Comprehensive Academic Management System), and the partner was Three Rivers Systems, Inc.

“Not only has Three Rivers Systems listened to our special needs along the way, they've made them happen.”

-Ken Revenaugh, Vice President of Business Affairs, MBU

MBU's success was not a result of chance, but was a result of a forward-thinking administration that identified and adhered to a clearly defined set of objectives, and from having performed a thorough analysis of the market. MBU had all the necessary components to make an informed purchase decision, and was committed to finding a solution that would:

- ✓ Implement quickly, on time, and as expected;
- ✓ Deliver an intuitive and efficient user interface, eliminating the need for their users to memorize hundreds of complex key codes;
- ✓ Create an environment where data was seamlessly and efficiently exchanged;
- ✓ Not require their IT department to maintain multiple, dissimilar systems;
- ✓ Easily and efficiently scale, regardless of plans for additional locations;
- ✓ Automate their administrative tasks, so users would not have to make changes in a variety of different places;
- ✓ Give their institution the flexibility and control they needed to advance their institution.

In addition to an Academic ERP solution that met these criteria, MBU was also committed to finding a long-term partner, not a software vendor, who saw it as a priority to keep its customers on track with current technologies, and would deliver those technologies without sacrificing existing system functionality and usability.

This partner would also have a proven track record of delivering a predictable cost of ownership. Predictability to MBU meant zero hidden costs and surprises, and an intelligent technology written from the ground up to work for its customers, not against them.

With its objectives clearly stated, MBU researched the market. What they found was the majority of vendors offered similar solutions and followed similar business plans that did not align with their objectives, with the exception of one. Three Rivers Systems, Inc., the creators of CAMS, adhered to a business model and offered a totally integrated solution and services that catered to Higher Education institutions, regardless of their size and type.

“Some of the other products that we saw looked very interesting, but upon closer inquiry, what we were being shown wasn’t the actual program, but rather just screenshots. Maybe the program worked as described, or maybe we were just seeing screen shots of pre-delivery beta test software. Three Rivers Systems provided actual working software that we could evaluate.”

-Ken Revenaugh, Vice President of Business Affairs, MBU

Three Rivers Systems and CAMS had met MBU’s stringent criteria and in late 1990, MBU confidently acquired their first version of CAMS. Now 18 years later, MBU utilizes CAMS Enterprise™, Three Rivers Systems Inc. third generation product. CAMS Enterprise™ currently helps MBU more efficiently manage their entire student lifecycle, just as the original CAMS did, but adds Portals, state of the art security, robust Degree Audit, a full featured Financial Aid package, a completed Development module, built in Course Management, and outstanding Reporting capabilities, keeping MBU up to date with the most advanced Higher Education administrative technology.

Customer – Missouri Baptist University (<http://www.mobap.edu>)

Chosen Solution – CAMS Enterprise™ (and all previous versions of CAMS)

Profile – Located in St. Louis MO, Missouri Baptist University (MBU) is a premier Christ-centered university that since 1964 has equipped students with the tools needed to impact society on a global scale. With total enrollment now approaching 4,600, MBU offers more than 40 undergraduate majors, a host of minors that are offered with seven academic divisions, six graduate programs and the Educational Specialist at five locations throughout Missouri and Western Illinois. **Source:** *Missouri Baptist University*

About CAMS Enterprise™

CAMS Enterprise™, Three Rivers Systems, Inc. flagship product, is a completely integrated and 100% web-based Academic ERP for Higher Education institutions. The solution helps institutions of all sizes and types communicate with their Students through Portals, and manage the entire student lifecycle – Admissions, Registration, Student Records, Financial Aid, Fiscal Management, HR/Payroll, Development, and Alumni Relations. Built with pure Microsoft technologies, CAMS Enterprise™ ensures compatibility, efficient use of resources, scalability, and complete automation.

About Three Rivers Systems, Inc. (<http://www.threeriverssystems.com>)

Three Rivers Systems, Inc. has been creating and delivering high quality administrative solutions exclusively for higher education since 1985. Its Comprehensive Academic Management System (CAMS) and business methodology have been purposely and carefully crafted to eliminate the service and product limitations commonly found throughout the Academic Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) industry. From its headquarters in St. Louis, MO, Three Rivers Systems works in tandem with its hundreds of higher education customers from around the world, supporting their efforts to help them be more effective and efficient in managing their student lifecycle.

