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A radical blueprint for reinventing American higher education

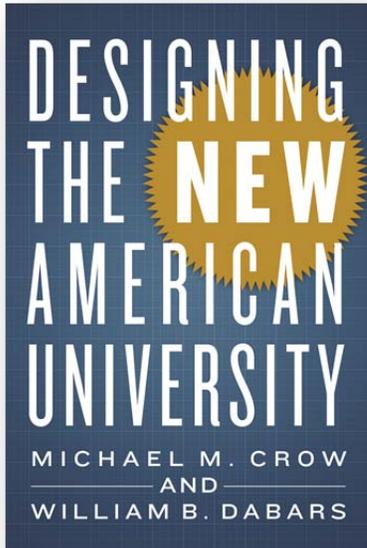
Advance Praise for Designing the New American University

“Over the past twelve years, Michael Crow has transformed ASU into one of America’s proudest research universities. Now, he and his colleague, William Dabars, share this model of success and the efforts of the university to bring it to scale—presenting untapped opportunities to boost our economic and global competitiveness and to further invest in our next generation of leaders.”

—**BILL CLINTON, former President of the United States**

“*Designing the New American University* presents a fascinating look at the challenges and opportunities facing our nation’s higher education community. Michael Crow is one of the leading college presidents precisely because he understands how we must innovate if we want to continue to lead in today’s global knowledge economy, while at the same time expanding access and affordability to ensure more students have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. This book is an important and insightful read.”

—**JEB BUSH, former Governor of Florida**



“*Designing the New American University* is a brilliant, innovative, lucid, and path-breaking book—arguably the most significant book on higher learning since Clark Kerr’s *The Uses of the University*, published more than a half-century ago. No one should miss the delight of engaging in the discussion that this extraordinary book will surely engender about the future of American universities.”—**JONATHAN R. COLE, provost emeritus, Columbia University; author of *The Great American University: Its Rise to Preeminence, Its Indispensable National Role, Why It Must Be Protected***

“Instead of dwelling on the past glories of American higher education alone, this book centers on reinvention and the dynamic nature of American universities. At a time when higher education is in flux—some would say in crisis—the clarity of Crow’s vision and proposed solutions make *Designing the New American University* essential reading.”

—**VARTAN GREGORIAN, Carnegie Corporation of New York and former president, Brown University**

“*Designing the New American University* deserves close reading since it sets the context and need for the design of a new type of research university and then presents the project of ASU as a case study that has already achieved goals that far surpass expectations. While not strictly a model—in fact, Crow and Dabars are very clear that institutional design must honor the parameters and contingencies of individual contexts—it does show us the way to a significantly more optimistic and inclusive future for higher education.”

—**JOHN SEELY BROWN, former chief scientist, Xerox Corporation and former head of Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC)**

“America has been blessed with the world’s best universities, but it won’t stay that way without wise change. Michael Crow has been inventing the new university for years; friends of higher education should go to school on his innovations, with this as their textbook.” —**MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., president, Purdue University and former Governor of Indiana**

“A deeply researched, thoughtful, and inspiring account of what is possible in American higher education today that draws on sources from the history of higher education and organizational design, and taps into the experiences of Arizona State University. This book is a route map, rationale, and guide for the few and the bold who dare to step forward to build the universities we need for the twenty-first century.”—**DANIEL GREENSTEIN, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

“Crow and Dabars provide an unusually thoughtful analysis of the challenges faced by American higher education, as the erosion in public support coupled with the mistaken belief that quality depends upon selectivity has created both serious inequities in college access and opportunity while also weakening substantially the university research so critical to our nation’s prosperity, security, and social well-being. Both this book and the model it demonstrates should be of great interest to all those concerned with the future of American higher education.”—**JAMES J. DUDERSTADT, president emeritus, University of Michigan; author of *A University for the 21st Century***

In *Designing the New American University*, Michael Crow and William Dabars have gone one better than just opening a panoramic window on Crow’s energetic re-invention at Arizona State of the very idea of the university. Even more importantly, they combine analytic social science, policy studies focused on innovation and on economic and community development, and a humanistic understanding of how institutions and the ideologies and motives underlying them have changed over time, placing bold experiments like Crow’s in historical perspective and illuminating how the nation has shaped its institutions of higher learning and how they in turn have shaped, and must continue to shape, the nation.”—**DANIEL MARK FOGEL, University of Vermont; co-editor of *Precipice or Crossroads? Where America’s Great Public Universities Stand and Where They Are Going Midway through Their Second Century***

“At a time when knowledge is the key resource for a robust and prosperous society, Crow and Dabars argue persuasively that we must design a New American University rededicated to the public good and recast to meet society’s present and future challenges and opportunities. This book will inspire us to re-think the way we support discovery, creativity, education, and service to maximize artistic engagement, humanistic insight, scientific understanding, and technological innovation for deep societal impact, both local and global.”—**FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI III, president, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; author of *Holding Fast to Dreams: Empowering Youth from the Civil Rights Crusade to STEM Achievement***

America’s research universities consistently dominate global rankings but may be entrenched in a model that no longer accomplishes their purposes. These institutions represent the gold standard in American higher education but their evolution since the nineteenth century has been only incremental. The need for a new and complementary model is critical to our well-being and economic competitiveness.

Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University, conceived the New American University model when he moved to Arizona State in 2002. Over the past decade, Crow has led the transformation of ASU into an egalitarian institution committed to academic excellence, inclusiveness to a broad demographic, and maximum societal impact.

In *Designing the New American University*, Crow and coauthor William B. Dabars examine the emergence of this set of institutions and the imperative for the new model. Through institutional innovation, say Crow and Dabars, universities are apt to realize unique and differentiated identities, which maximize their potential to generate the ideas, products, and processes that impact quality of life, standard of living, and national economic competitiveness. *Designing the New American University* will ignite a national discussion about the future evolution of the American research university.

Michael M. Crow has served as the president of Arizona State University since 2002. He was formerly executive vice provost at Columbia University and a professor of science and technology policy.

William B. Dabars is a senior research fellow in the Office of the President and a research professor in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University.

Designing the New American University **Michael M. Crow and William B. Dabars**

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