

Crow, Michael M. *Designing the new American university*, by Michael M. Crow and William B. Dabars. Johns Hopkins, 2015. 344p bibl index afp ISBN 9781421417233, \$34.95; ISBN 9781421417240 ebook, \$34.95.

Rising costs and increased student indebtedness, times to earning a degree and completion rates, economic competitiveness and job prospects for graduates, and the role of new technologies are all 21st-century front-burner issues in American higher education. Crow (president, Arizona State Univ.) continues to be at the cutting edge of these and other challenges, opportunities, and initiatives for public research universities in general and his own institution in particular. He and historian colleague Dabars (Arizona State Univ.) have written what they call "a book about a new model for the American research university." For those in a hurry, the 16-page introduction provides a superb review of the background, literature, and players in this arena as well as an overview of the themes and messages in each chapter. Given the authors' emphasis on the research university, it is perhaps not surprising that neither the for-profit pioneer Univ. of Phoenix nor online learning are mentioned at all; however, arguably this is also a shortcoming. Well written and laden with notes and bibliography, this is a solid complement to William G. Bowen and Eugene M. Tobin's *Locus of Authority* (2015) and Robert Lacroix and Louis Maheu's *Leading Research Universities in a Competitive World* (2015). Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals and practitioners.