Stretching the higher education dollar: how innovation can improve access, equity, and affordability, ed. by Andrew P. Kelly and Kevin Carey. Harvard Education Press, 2013. 260p index ISBN 9781612505954, $60.00; ISBN 9781612505947 pbk, $29.95

Higher education is a very hot topic nationally these days. Major issues include escalating sticker prices and prospects for cost containment, concerns about student indebtedness, the financial return from going to college, access to this alleged key to economic advancement, structural issues within the university and entire system, new options from recent technological advances, and prospects for change and reform. With ten stand-alone chapters sandwiched between the editors' introduction and conclusion, Kelly (American Enterprise Institute) and Carey (New American Foundation) and their band of merry economists, educational entrepreneurs, higher education writers, industry insiders, and public policy gurus confront these issues and other challenges head on. While certainly not by any means providing "the last word," the authors do offer valuable perspectives and suggestions on many topics, including how to think about costs, efficiencies, and constraints in higher education; the roles of faculty, management structures, student services, and the college experience; the alternatives and complementary initiatives in terms of efficiencies made possible via the Internet; and the role of public policy in these debates. These thoughtful, informative, well-written, and documented essays deserve a wide, varied audience and a part in any conversation on higher education. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels and collections.