



Economic and Social Mobility: Redefining Higher Education for Generational Wealth

AUTHOR Hakim J. Lucas

EDITION

1st edition

MARKET

College/higher education and Professional and Scholarly

This course reading...

- Reframes the purpose of higher education: *Economic and Social Mobility: Redefining Higher Education for Generational Wealth* argues that graduation alone is no longer enough and calls for universities to measure real-life outcomes tied to long-term prosperity.
- Introduces a groundbreaking framework: Hakim J. Lucas presents the Economic and Social Mobility (ESM) framework and nine determinants of generational wealth.
- Moves beyond credentialism: Proposes six new institutional success metrics focused on wealth building, entrepreneurship, home ownership, and lifelong institutional support.
- Grounded in real-world models: Highlights Historically Black Colleges and Universities as proof that higher education can drive lasting economic mobility.
- Offers actionable insight for change: Combines research, policy thinking, and practical strategies to reshape how institutions evaluate success.
- Ideal for: Higher education leaders, policymakers, researchers, social mobility advocates, and readers interested in equity, opportunity, and the future of American higher education.

What if the true measure of a university's success isn't graduation, but generational wealth?

In *Economic and Social Mobility: Redefining Higher Education for Generational Wealth*, **Hakim J. Lucas** challenges the long-held promise that a college degree automatically leads to opportunity. At a time when student debt has surpassed \$1.7 trillion and many graduates struggle to build lasting financial stability, **Lucas** argues that higher education has been measuring the wrong outcomes. Instead of focusing solely on retention and graduation, he calls for institutions to embrace "living goals" such as home ownership, entrepreneurship, investment participation, stable employment, insurance security, and lifelong institutional support. Drawing on the social determinants of health, **Lucas** introduces the groundbreaking Economic and Social Mobility (ESM) framework and outlines nine determinants of generational wealth. By positioning Historically Black Colleges and Universities as powerful examples and proposing six new institutional metrics, **Lucas** offers a transformative roadmap that shifts the conversation from credentialism to long-term prosperity.

This book is ideal for higher education leaders, policymakers, researchers, social mobility advocates, and anyone interested in the future of equity, opportunity, and generational wealth in American higher education.

Hakim J. Lucas is President of Virginia Union University and CEO of Virginia Union University Enterprises and a thought leader on HBCU transformation, social enterprise, and economic mobility.

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