The data shows that higher education substantially fails to provide poor and working-class students with the necessary support to achieve the social mobility and success comparable to the attainments of their middle and upper class peers. This book presents a comprehensive range of strategies that provide the fundamental supports that poor and working class students need to succeed while at the same time dismantling the inequitable barriers that make college difficult to navigate.

Drawing on the concept of the student-ready college, and on emerging research and practices that colleges and universities can use to explore campus-specific social class issues and identify barriers, this book provides examples of support programs and services across the field of higher education – at both two- and four-year, public and private institutions – that cover:

- Access supports. Examples and recommendations for how institutions can assist students as they make decisions about applications and admission.
- Basic needs supports. Covering housing and food security, necessary clothing, sense of belonging through co-curricular engagement, and mental health resources.
- Academic and learning supports
- Advising supports
- Supports for specific populations at the intersection of social class with other identities, such as Students of Color, foster youth, LGBTQ, and doctoral students
- Gaining support through external partnerships with social services, business entities, and fundraising