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## DECLINING BY DEGREES

### Higher Education at Risk

ED. BY RICHARD H. HERSH AND JOHN MERROW

*FOREWARD BY TOM WOLFE*

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In 1983, a groundbreaking report called *A Nation at Risk* drew attention to the alarming inadequacies of America's public education system, setting into motion a call for vast improvements to this country's K-12 education policies. However, while the country's attention has been focused on primary and secondary schools, America's colleges and universities have been gravely overlooked, giving way to enormous problems in the higher education system. Now, more than 20 years after *A Nation at Risk*, top educational experts and journalists have come together to present a shocking view of higher education in **DECLINING BY DEGREES: Higher Education at Risk** (*Palgrave Macmillan hardcover; June 2005; \$24.95; ISBN: 1-4039-6921-3*), the companion book to the upcoming PBS documentary of the same title.

A collection of essays edited by Richard H. Hersh, former president of Hobart and Smith Colleges and Trinity College and the Peabody Award

winning president of *Learning Matters*, John Merrow, this book asks tough questions about the integrity of America's colleges and universities, focusing on problems such as:

- Administrators' obsession with college rankings (*U.S. News & World Report*), and placing more emphasis on recruiting attractive candidates than actually providing quality education when they get there
- The pursuit of research funding from corporations, overloading the faculty with research projects and taking them away from the classroom and their students
- The awarding of scholarships to students who the university believes will raise their ranking rather than to students who actually need the financial aid

With contributors such as James Fallows, Jay Mathews, and Frank Deford, and a thought-provoking foreword by Tom Wolfe, **DECLINING BY DEGREES** addresses critical issues that deserve national attention.

**RICHARD H. HERSH** is a Senior Fellow at the Council for Aid to Education (RAND). He is the former president of two colleges. He lives in Connecticut. **JOHN MERROW** is the Peabody Award winning president of Learning Matters, Inc. He is host and executive producer of *The Merrow Report* on PBS and NPR. He is an education correspondent for the MacNeil/Lehrer *NewsHour* on PBS. He lives in New York City.

**DECLINING BY DEGREES:**

**Higher Education at Risk**

Ed. by Richard H. Hersh and John Merrow

Publication Date: June 6, 2005

Price: \$24.95

ISBN: 1-4039-6921-3

*A Palgrave Macmillan title*

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