Foreword

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The “Great Recession” that began in late 2007 offered important lessons on the range of challenges we face as a global society and evinced the need for a renewed commitment to higher education in the U.S. and around the world.

TIAA-CREF has long recognized the connections between intellectual capital and socioeconomic progress. We understand that the future of the global economy depends on an educated workforce, one that possesses not only a greater capacity for knowledge but also greater powers of critical thinking and creativity, and a deep sense of moral and ethical values.

Through the TIAA-CREF Institute, we seek to provide the leaders of higher education with an objective source of insights, and a trusted, independent forum for the exchange of ideas. In November 2008, the Institute convened “Higher Education in a Global Society,” a major conference of university presidents, chancellors, academic deans, researchers and other leaders, to discuss the critical role of higher education in creating cross-cultural understanding, promoting international collaboration, and strengthening the global economy. More than 150 individuals shared their views, experience and expertise, and we are grateful for their participation.

The chapters in this book, written by a distinguished group of higher education scholars and leaders, capture, synthesize and build upon those conference discussions. We hope that this volume will be helpful as you shape the future of your institution and, indeed, as you define the way higher education meets the needs of a changing world.

In the coming years, the profiles and responsibilities of academic institutions will continue to grow; I can assure you that TIAA-CREF will continue to evolve in a way that is consistent with our mission, which is to say, in a way that best serves you. On behalf of my colleagues at TIAA-CREF and the TIAA-CREF Institute, thank you for your interest in the Higher Education Leadership Conference Series, and thank you for the opportunity to be of service.