

## *Preface to the Third Edition*

It has been 10 years since the first edition of *Other Ways to Win* was published. Much has happened in 10 years: some good, some not so good. One thing has not changed. The “one way to win” mentality—the idea that the only chance of winning economically is to get at least a 4-year college degree—is still very much with us. In fact, it could be argued that the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, with its stated goal of preparing every child for college, has institutionalized the paradigm. Unfortunately, the negative effects of the “one way to win” mentality on young Americans and the nation’s economy also have not changed. Factors such as globalization and state-mandated high stakes testing have made matters worse, not better. Presently, 1 out of every 10 ninth graders in the United States graduates from a 4-year college and finds commensurate employment. We wish after 10 years this were not the case; we wish a third edition of *Other Ways to Win* were not necessary. But because the success rate for teens in the academic middle has not improved, we write this third edition. We have updated the figures and charts with more recent data, and we have rewritten much of book to take into account the new realities this generation of teens now faces.

Fortunately, there are still “other ways to win” for teens from the academic middle. Our goals remain the same, namely to point out the negative effects of the “one way to win” mentality on those in the academic middle and to identify other ways for this group to pursue careers that are both rewarding and lucrative, many of which require college but at the 1- and 2-year pre-baccalaureate level.

—Ken Gray  
—Edwin Herr