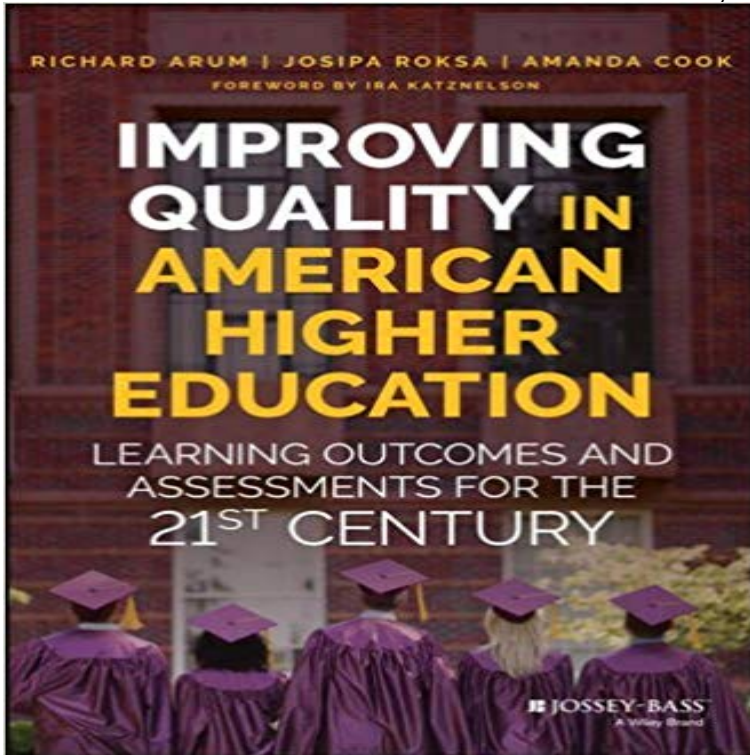


Improving Quality in American Higher Education: Learning Outcomes and Assessments for the 21st Century



An ambitious, comprehensive reimagining of 21st century higher education *Improving Quality in American Higher Education* outlines the fundamental concepts and competencies society demands from today's college graduates, and provides a vision of the future for students, faculty, and administrators. Based on a national, multidisciplinary effort to define and measure learning outcomes, the *Measuring College Learning* project, this book identifies essential concepts and competencies for six disciplines. These essential concepts and competencies represent efforts towards articulating a consensus among faculty in biology, business, communication, economics, history, and sociology disciplines that account for nearly 40 percent of undergraduate majors in the United States. Contributions from thought leaders in higher education, including Ira Katznelson, George Kuh, and Carol Geary Schneider, offer expert perspectives and persuasive arguments for the need for greater clarity, intentionality, and quality in U.S. higher education. College faculty are our best resource for improving the quality of undergraduate education. This book offers a path forward based on faculty perspectives nationwide: Clarify program structure and aims, Articulate high-quality learning goals, Rigorously measure student progress, Prioritize higher order competencies and disciplinarily grounded conceptual understandings. A culmination of over two years of efforts by faculty and association leaders from six disciplines, this book distills the national conversation into a delineated set of fundamental ideas and practices, and advocates for the development and use of rigorous assessment tools that are valued by faculty, students, and society. *Improving Quality in American Higher Education* brings faculty voices to the fore of the conversation and offers an insightful look at the state of

higher education, and a realistic strategy for better serving our students.

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