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The Power of a Promise

Miller-Adams, Michelle

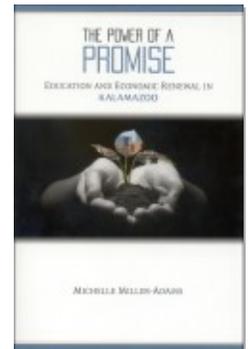
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“Michelle Miller-Adams captures the truly unique story of the Kalamazoo Promise without losing sight of the universal lessons it offers us. *The Power of a Promise* is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the future of economic and community development in our country.”

—Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, *State of Michigan*

“The Kalamazoo Promise is a fascinating experiment with enormous implications for American education. Will the promise of free tuition inspire students to work harder in school? Will it draw more middle-class families back into the city’s public school system, enriching the learning environment for all? Michelle Miller-Adams provides a superb, thoroughly researched, and highly readable account of this closely watched, groundbreaking venture.”

—Richard D. Kahlenberg, *senior fellow, The Century Foundation and author of All Together Now: Creating Middle-Class Schools through Public School Choice*

“Across America, economic developers struggle to overcome the disincentives created by low-performance, poverty-impacted school districts. Michelle Miller-Adams offers an insightful first look at the impact of the Kalamazoo Promise in revitalizing a city’s declining job market and aging neighborhoods. If ‘housing policy is school policy,’ the Kalamazoo Promise tests whether ‘school policy is housing policy.’”

—David Rusk, *former mayor of Albuquerque and author of Cities Without Suburbs and Inside Game/Outside Game*

“Michelle Miller-Adams does a superb job of exploring the political science, economics, sociology, and psychology of the Kalamazoo Promise. Her book begins as an education whodunit and quickly shifts to a policy wonk’s dream. As with *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the last (and unfinished) work of Charles Dickens, the reader is left with a deliciously tantalizing question. Unlike in Dickens’s mystery, however, the Promise question is: In the next 20 years, how will Kalamazoo be able to use its Promise to continue its transformation?”

—Michael F. Rice, *PhD, Superintendent, Kalamazoo Public Schools*

“*The Power of a Promise* captures the dramatic history of the Kalamazoo Promise’s first three years and explores the work to be done to contribute to the region’s transformation for decades to come. Assessing progress to date, Miller-Adams also gives useful suggestions about what remains to be done. Her book reveals that the success of the Kalamazoo Promise rests not on scholarship dollars alone, but on individual and organizational actions in support of the complementary goals of education and economic development. Having been deeply involved in the work of the Kalamazoo Promise, Miller-Adams portrays a true picture of its vision that, ‘Greater Kalamazoo will become a world leader in education, investing in youth to elevate the quality of life for each resident.’”

—Janice M. Brown, *EdD, Executive Director, The Kalamazoo Promise*



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