Praise for
Strife and Progress

“Hill and his co-authors provide a roadmap for city leaders, outlining the “portfolio strategy,” by which a city can tap all the talents within its nonprofits, colleges, foundations, and businesses. This book is for any leader who won’t rest until every child has access to an effective school.”
— U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet, Colorado

“...a must-read...It describes a revolutionary new approach to improving school systems that we’ve seen firsthand can attract and retain exceptional educators, unleash their leadership, empower parents, and expand opportunity for all children.”
— Wendy Kopp, Founder and CEO, Teach For America

“There can be no one-size-fits-all in our relentless pursuit to create an education system that exists solely for the benefit of students...Hill, Campbell, and Gross present an innovative strategy for those looking for new ways to fix an old system.”
— Jeb Bush, Governor of Florida, 1999-2007, and Chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education

“...portfolio strategies are critical to improving our public schools, and Hill’s sharp eye will help future reformers move forward more effectively.”
— Joel Klein, Former New York City Schools Chancellor, CEO of the Education Division and Executive Vice President, News Corporation

“Paul Hill can rightfully be termed the father of the ‘portfolio’ approach to urban school reform...This is a book that deserves the attention of both urban leaders and would-be school reformers.”
— Frederick M. Hess, Director of Education Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute

High dropout rates and low achievement in many urban school districts require bold action, which is sure to incite conflict.

Strife and Progress: Portfolio Strategies for Managing Urban Schools, by Paul Hill, Christine Campbell, and Betheny Gross, examines a revolutionary new model for organizing school systems that is bringing deep and positive change to 30 cities around the country. Under the portfolio strategy, districts ensure that every family can choose among several good schools. To that end, districts create a diverse supply of schools, open promising new schools, and close consistently unproductive ones; give all schools the freedom of action they need to meet the needs of their students; and hold all schools accountable under the same performance standards.

Based on studies of portfolio school districts, including New York, New Orleans, Denver, Chicago, and D.C., Strife and Progress shows how mayors and other city leaders have introduced the portfolio strategy, compares how different cities have implemented it, analyzes the intense and colorful conflicts the strategy can set off, and summarizes the results to date.

The authors acknowledge the intensity of conflict over portfolio strategies in New York, New Orleans, and elsewhere, but comment that uproar can be a sign that important changes, strong enough to make a difference in student achievement, are being made.

Strife and Progress opens up a critical dialogue about the best ways to assess the performance of schools and create new opportunities for students.
**About the Authors**

**Dr. Paul T. Hill** is Founder of the Center on Reinventing Public Education and Research Professor at the University of Washington. His ideas have profoundly impacted education reform nationwide, influencing the way many scholars, policymakers, and education leaders think about how the U.S. public education system can be restructured. Hill’s development of the portfolio school district management strategy has directly shaped education reform initiatives in cities like New York and New Orleans, and he has built a national network of school district officials, mayors, foundations, nonprofits, and others pursuing the portfolio strategy. He is a trusted advisor to many superintendents, state chiefs, and governors, and a frequent source of expertise for legislators and the media. His books include *Learning as We Go* (Hoover, 2010) and *Reinventing Public Education* (University of Chicago Press, 1997). Hill lives in Seattle but is a frequent traveler to San Francisco, where his granddaughters Claudia, Allegra, and Francesca live. He is a committed booster for effective schools, for his granddaughters and everybody else’s.

**Christine Campbell** is Senior Research Analyst and Policy Director at CRPE. She leads the Center’s Portfolio School Districts Project, which studies and advises more than 30 urban districts managing a portfolio of schools, including some run by charter authorizers and other independent entities. She has researched and analyzed district-wide reforms and the role of superintendent leadership and central office operations, and she is an expert on charter school leadership, from recruitment and preparation to retention and succession planning. She is co-author with Paul Hill of *It Takes A City* (Brookings Press, 2000). Campbell lives in Seattle with her husband and three rowdy boys. She empathizes greatly with the daily challenges that face their teachers.

**Dr. Betheny Gross** is Senior Research Analyst and Research Director at CRPE. She has examined evidence and outcomes of district reform across the country and has advised and consulted with districts leaders to formulate strategy and implementation. She is an authority on teacher quality and labor market issues in both district and charter schools. Her work has been published in several journals, including *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *American Education Research Journal*, *Journal of Education Finance*, and *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Gross leads CRPE’s “Reinventing the Wheel” Bike to Work efforts, with several eager riders and many more reluctant ones.

---

**To schedule author interviews or speaking engagements**

Contact Debra Britt, Communications Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education

phone: 206.221.3331 email: debbritt@uw.edu

*Strife and Progress: Portfolio Strategies for Managing Urban Schools*  
Brooking Press, December 7, 2012; Price: $28.95; Pages: 175  
ISBN: 978-0815724278

Available for purchase at Amazon  
Reader reviews encouraged