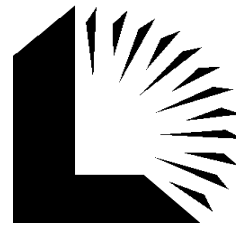


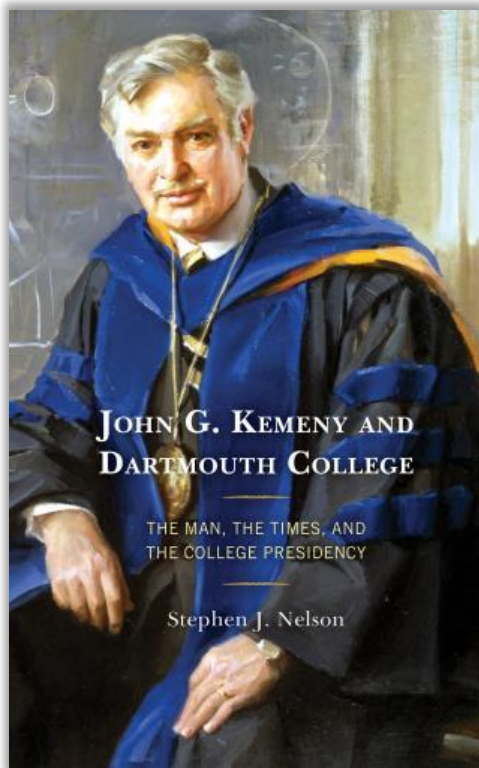
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Easily the smartest person I have ever known is Dartmouth President John Kemeny. So, too, much the finest, most decisive and influential college president I have witnessed in action is John Kemeny. But John Kemeny was not simply a smart and markedly successful college president. He was also and always a professor, a master teacher. And his leadership style was just that, the style of a compassionate, decisive, witty master teacher. Now, at great long last, we have what we have lacked, what we have missed and longed for: a sensitive, well researched, engaging biography by veteran student of the American college presidency, Stephen J. Nelson. Reading Professor Nelson's biography is the surest way to come to know just what a great man was John Kemeny.

— **Robert A. Oden, President Emeritus, Carleton College and Former Professor, Dartmouth College**

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Featuring never before published excerpts from his unfinished autobiography, this book explores the career of John G. Kemeny, mathematician, educator, and president of Dartmouth College. Nelson presents a portrait of Kemeny's presidential leadership during the tumultuous 1960s and 1970s, exemplifying his resolute commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, learning, human understanding, equity, and justice. Through this discussion of Kemeny's life, Nelson identifies the ideal qualities of a leader: willingness to ponder, consider, and achieve the best actions he could conceive; compassion, understanding and empathy for others; absolute belief in the rising generation of college students; and courage in the face of challenging public issues, contentious and warring opinions, and concerns. From immigrant roots to college presidency and the national stage, this book tells the full story of a genius and giant of the world of academia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen J. Nelson is professor of education and educational leadership at Bridgewater State University and senior scholar in the Leadership Alliance at Brown University.

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