Eric Thomas Weber is associate professor of public policy leadership at the University of Mississippi and the recipient of the Mississippi Humanities Council’s 2015 Public Scholar Award. He serves as executive director of the Society of Philosophers in America and is the author of three books, including *Democracy and Leadership: On Pragmatism and Virtue*. 
The book draws on insights from classical and contemporary philosophical outlooks on leadership, which highlight four key social virtues: wisdom, courage, moderation, and justice. Within this framework, the author approaches Mississippi’s problems of poverty and educational frustration in a novel way that is applicable in and beyond the rural South. Weber brings to bear each of the virtues of democratic leadership on particular problems, with some overarching lessons and values to advance. The author’s editorial essays are included in the appendix as examples of engaging in public inquiry for the sake of democratic leadership.

“Have Eric Thomas Weber speak to your class, book club, library group, business group, or charitable organization about the practical philosophy and possibilities in Uniting Mississippi.”

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“I am often in conversation with groups and individuals around the state who are working hard to improve the lives of Mississippian. Some of the greatest needs in that work are an understanding of our history, the need for a common language to describe where we are in that history, and the creation of a community of practice that shares best practices and ideas. Dr. Weber’s book is an excellent start for supporting this crucial work.”

—Susan Glisson, executive director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi

“This book is the beginning of a desperately needed conversation in Mississippi about the future of the state. It addresses an issue that nearly everyone is aware of—the need for high quality education for Mississippian—with an understanding that it must precede rather than flow from economic growth. Anyone interested in education policy in Mississippi should read and consider the case for education in this book.”

—Robert Mellen, Jr., assistant professor and undergraduate coordinator at Mississippi State University

“The words ‘philosophy’ and ‘practical’ are rarely used together. Using the challenged state of Mississippi as an example, Professor Weber offers clear guidance on how inspired democratic leadership can bring about needed change. There are pearls of wisdom here for both the scholar and the aspiring leader.”

—Daniel W. Jones, MD, professor of physiology and medicine, former dean of the School of Medicine, and former chancellor at the University of Mississippi