Working Class

Challenging Myths About Blue-Collar Labor

Jeff Torlina
Contents

Preface vii

1 The Meaning of Work 1
2 The Promise of Blue-Collar Labor 23
3 How We Came to Devalue Blue-Collar Work 43
4 Blue-Collar Views on the White-Collar World 59
5 Conceptions of Class Hierarchy 83
6 Occupational Prestige 97
7 Making Sense of Working-Class Attitudes 113
8 False Dichotomies: The Importance of Experiential Knowledge 127
9 Reclaiming the Value of Labor 147
10 Recasting the Image of Blue-Collar Work 163
11 Conclusions and Implications 179

Appendix: Methodology and Data 191
Bibliography 209
Index 219
About the Book 222