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Preface

This silver anniversary edition of *To Improve the Academy* was a profoundly communal act, and many people deserve acknowledgement. First, I would like to thank my colleagues who submitted their good work for review, and I encourage them to continue to do so no matter what the outcome of the review process. Growing the scholarship of educational development depends on our willingness to make our work public, to put it into a form that can be shared, and to submit it to peer review. I applaud all of you who submitted your work for taking the risk and for contributing importantly to the process of developing our field's literature.

Reviewing six or more papers in a short time during the holiday season is no small feat, especially with an already overflowing plate. Deserving high praise for thoughtful and prompt manuscript evaluation is the review panel for this silver anniversary edition: Danilo Baylen, Donna Bird, Phyllis Blumberg, Jeanette Clausen, Francine Glazer, Judy Grace, Patrice Gray, Wayne Jacobson, Frances Johnson, Kathleen Kane, Diana Kelly, Joseph "Mick" LaLopa, Jean Layne, Virginia Lee, Vilma Mesa, Edward Nuhfer, Leslie Ortquist-Ahrens, Donna Petherbridge, Nancy Polk, Gerald Ratliff, Jen Schoepke, Judy Silverstrone, Kathleen Smith, Margaret Snooks, and Mary Wright.

Special thanks go to Associate Editor Linda Nilson, whose publishing and editorial acumen contributed importantly to the development of this volume. She dispatched close edits of the many chapters assigned to her with sure-handed wisdom and remarkable speed. Her effervescent intelligence, good humor, and rock-solid friendship buoyed this project throughout.

At Anker Publishing, Carolyn Dumore deserves recognition for her charming responsiveness and competence, as well as Jim Anker for his personable leadership over the years. The relationship with Anker has been reliably pleasant and productive.

Accomplishing a project of this size is virtually impossible without the support of one's institution, and I have been blessed with strong support at Northern Kentucky University (NKU), where I serve as assistant provost for professional development. The support at the executive level has been extraordinary. In particular, I would like to thank President James Votruba,

who is without doubt one of the most intellectually curious and civically principled university presidents I have ever met, always ready to discuss an idea, particularly if it is about contributing to a community; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Gail Wells, a wise and brilliant academic leader who despite heavy administrative demands maintains an active intellectual life, reading broadly and voraciously; and Vice Provost for University Programs Paul Reichardt, who serves as an exemplary scholar-leader with his effective administration, active scholarship and teaching, and steadfast collegiality. In the climate set by NKU's executive leadership, being an administrator and editing a scholarly volume are seen as compatible and commendable, which is certainly not true at every college and university.

As director of the Professional and Organizational Development Center at NKU, I would also like to thank the center's professional staff: Patty Wilsey, coordinator; Laura Brenner, research assistant; Sarah Mann, online educational development consultant; Jim Nilson, web educational development consultant; Megan Downing, associate director; and the corps of student workers. As individuals and as a group, they have adjusted their own work in order to accommodate my periodic need to focus on this project. I want to single out Patty Wilsey for high praise. Essentially, Patty was the project coordinator and showed extraordinary patience, dedication, and creativity as she developed and managed Access databases that recorded and tracked every aspect of the project. Without her dependable competence, cleverness, and wit, I would surely have been lost on this project and many others.

Finally, I want to express gratitude for being blessed with a family that teaches me so much about living and loving: especially my daughter, Maura Eileen Robertson, who begins her all-consuming career in middle school this year but still finds space in her head and heart for her dad; and my wife, Sue Robertson Reimondo, who, besides being my best friend, is the director of counseling and psychological services at Berea College and a good friend to many.

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