Foreword

by Donald J. Bachand

The joint research project culminating in this book was initiated by a team of five Saginaw Valley State University and three Pentecost University College faculty members on the comparison of family business startups and entrepreneurship in the United States and Ghana. This research addresses a fundamental shift in employment patterns in our two countries: the jobs of tomorrow will come from new and innovative business practices that don’t exist today. At Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, we are well aware of how important entrepreneurship will be to our region and to our country. Small businesses have created more than 65% of the net new jobs since 1995, and more than 50% of the working population is currently employed by a small business.

The importance of entrepreneurship to the Ghanaian economy was brought home to us in 2010, when SVSU hosted the distinguished pharmacist and management consultant Dr. Michael Addo, board chair of PUC’s governing council, to offer a talk on “The KAMA Principles of Leadership and Entrepreneurship.” That initial visit and exchange of ideas led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2011 establishing a sister-college relationship between SVSU and PUC with the goal of advancing understanding through collaborative initiatives. I am delighted that the seeds planted early on have now borne fruit in the form of this published book put together by over 10 SVSU faculty and students and five PUC faculty members. We look forward to continued collaborative programs and initiatives between our two sister institutions.

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Donald J. Bachand was appointed Saginaw Valley State University’s fourth president in February 2014. He first joined SVSU in 1978 as an assistant professor of criminal justice and rose through the ranks of the faculty and academic administration. Bachand served as SVSU’s vice president for academic affairs and added the responsibilities of provost in 2010. President Bachand is active in various professional and community service organizations. He is a member of the boards of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, the Michigan Baseball Foundation, Midland Tomorrow, Saginaw Future and the Midland Center for the Arts. He is also a member of the Community Affairs Committee and the President's Council of Michigan Public Universities. Bachand earned his bachelor’s degree at Mercy College, a master’s degree at the University of Detroit, a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan and he completed an executive management program at Harvard University.