Acknowledgment

As editors and authors we aspire to courageously examine issues that deal with a plethora of challenges in our appreciation of cross-cultural collaboration and the pivotal role of leadership in modern organizations. The contributors push the reader to tackle cultural issues found in our global society and their impact on our society as a whole. They challenge us to consider the changes we need to make, conduct personal examination of how we teach, learn; lead and pose difficult questions about why we engage the ways we do. Our hope is that these chapters will serve as catalysts for further discourse and research on collaboration within and across cultures so the world can be more harmonious and appreciative of what each brings to table in support of sustainability. We wish to acknowledge a myriad of people who have influenced our lives and our professional work. Our sincere gratitude goes to IGI Global Publishers, particularly Brandon and the other staff who supported us, for the opportunity to disseminate our work, and to all the contributing authors and to reviewers who reviewed the original manuscripts. They share in our passion for cross-cultural collaboration and leadership.

Editor (and author) Erbe was fortunate to be born into a family of three languages and several cultures who taught her cross-cultural collaboration through their marriages, examples (fascinating adventurous lives), leadership and love. She is particularly appreciative of the strong Norwegian and women on both sides of her family who encouraged her to full potential and her own life adventures and the men who modeled exemplary open-mindedness and principled caring leadership—that the best of living is multicultural community. As a result, she is in her own cross-cultural marriage and the wonderful lessons for living continue and deepen. She would like to thank all cross cultural partners, colleagues, clients and students from the last forty years. They have been her teachers, from her first multicultural dialogue group to mediating child welfare cases with the Minneapolis American Indian Center; to facilitating cross ethnic dialogue with the Nansen Network during the Balkans war. Effective cross cultural collaboration and leadership are critical to the welfare of so many in our world. It must be a priority. Of course, she must also acknowledge the role who mother played speaking against segregation in the early 1950’s as one potent example, the support and example her father has provided since birth, and the joy and support of her multicultural family around the world.

Editor (and author) Normore is grateful for all the opportunities he has had working within and across cultures throughout the world. In particular, he acknowledges family, friends, the men, women and children who have played a pivotal role in shaping his belief that successful citizenship goes far beyond his community. It acts as a working model of civil society, and thereby helps to create, sustain, and improve communities. His cultural curiosity, advocacy, and experiences are governed by a process that is open to every member of the community regardless of disadvantage or difference. As such, he is grateful for
all leaders, teachers, and learners who promote civil democracy in preference to any sectarian perspective as the basis for thriving communities; and, celebrate diversity among people and communities from different backgrounds, outlooks and experiences. He is equally grateful for the impact of those who believe in high-quality education for an ethnically and culturally diverse population where a system is committed to peace, diversity, multiculturalism, and social justice across borders in order to improve the human condition while advancing anti-oppressive, socially equitable, and racially just solutions to enigmatic problems.