Foreword

T. Volkan Yuzer and Gulsun Kurubacak focus in this book on transformative online education. They define their own unique online learning approach, which underlines the need for taking a transformative approach, combined with aesthetics, dimensions and consideration. The editors say that these are exciting times for online education, and that we must learn how to incorporate transformation, as well as its various components, into the learning process. We must discover how to motivate the online users, from their individual perspective of learner, faculty member or designer, to learn progressively and be actively involved in transformative online education.

This edited book provides both a practical guide and a motivating theoretical approach. This stems from the background of both the editor and the author, as educators and as practitioners, and their experience which reflects their diverse viewpoints. The editors fully appreciate the enormous burden this approach may place upon transformative online educators, who should adopt this culture to match global and egalitarian curricular issues with their real life experiences. Their sensitivity shown in the book towards this dilemma is one of its most outstanding characteristics.

We congratulate both the authors and the editors in their work, their understanding of the topic, and for producing a valuable resource of material in this definitive area.

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Murat Barkan (1958) started his academic career as an assistant in educational communications, having completed his higher education in Communication Sciences at Anadolu University/TURKEY in 1981. His MA and PhD students led him to specialize in instructional design. He then chaired the Department of Educational Communications, from where he became a full professor in 1994. His specific areas of academic research have focused on instructional media design / distance education systems design, media design policies / strategies / tactics in distance and open learning. He has initiated and developed 12 graduate and 15 undergraduate courses, specific to his field of interest. Prof. Barkan has also conducted 8 MA and 5 PhD theses, published 10 international refereed articles, 9 books (comprised of 5 international English books and 4 books written in his native language), 3 chapters in international books, and 8 proceedings, which have appeared in 20 international conferences books. Prof. Barkan has also been recognized for his significant contribution to national and international project development, realizing a total of 16 academic and scientific projects. In the area of educational management, he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies at the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Gazimagusa/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He is now Rector of Yasar University located in Izmir/TURKEY since 2007.