Acknowledgment

The decision to pull together an edited book on this topic came after several years of collaboration on the topics of virtual and distributed teams with many individuals in my professional and academic life. For that reason, I would like to acknowledge not only the individuals who helped me with the book project, but those who influenced me to the point of realizing how badly a book like this is needed.

My first experience with teaching in higher education was at Portland State University in the Oregon Master of Software Engineering (OMSE) program. Throughout my years with that program, Dr. Kal Toth has been a great help in stretching my thinking regarding both teaching and working in the distributed environment. Kal and I came to the conclusion that a distributed team collaboration course was needed in the program, and proceeded to co-design that course. It was during many hours of collaboration and many cups of coffee at The Hof that we came to the realization that the book we wanted to use in this course did not exist. Further, we realized that no single person could write this book, due to the emerging nature of the topic and the research to support it. Thus, we arrived at the decision to pull together and edit a book that would bring together collaborators in academia and industry. Thank you to Kal and to the students and faculty in the OMSE program for the experiences and encouragement that made this book possible.

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