Acknowledgment

We would like to express our gratitude to our Advisory and Review Board and all of our authors for their time and input. As we were finishing the work one of our contributing authors died. We would like to dedicate this book to his memory.

This book is dedicated to the loving memory of our esteemed colleague, friend, and mentor at the University of Memphis: S. Wali Abdi. He has had a profound influence in everything we do. The world was a more joyful and meaningful place because of his sense of humor, positive disposition, boundless kindness, wisdom, playfulness, and zest for life. We miss him more than words can express. Wali lost his battle with cancer soon after he completed the introduction to this book. He was a brave and courageous colleague who never gave up hope.

He was a science teacher, researcher, consultant, speaker and author. Dr. Abdi was a Professor of Science Education in the College of Education. Since joining The University of Memphis in 1993, Dr. Abdi received numerous awards: The University of Memphis Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award; Science Educator of the Year Award for Higher Education presented by Tennessee Science Teachers Association; and The Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award presented by Memphis Organization of Science Teachers. Dr. Abdi also received The Outstanding Award of the Year for Teaching and for Service in the College of Education.

“To provide effective science instruction, a teacher should first and foremost make learning meaningful and useful. Inquiry-based instruction is a relevant and an essential component of effective teaching. Furthermore, students should be given multiple and continual opportunities to manipulate objects in order to construct meaning from what they learn and experience” (Abdi, 2005, p.18).

Wali, you gave us meaning and we shall always remember and respect you.