

## Acknowledgment

The authors express their appreciation to the many people who have made this book possible, particularly the authors, advisory board members, and reviewers.

Joan E. Aitken expresses her appreciation to her colleagues and loved ones. Joan thanks J. Mark Noe, Chair of Arts and Communication, Park University, for his encouragement. Leonard J. Shedletsky, of the Communication Department of the University of Southern Maine serves as a powerful motivator behind Joan's work. Lenny enticed Joan into Internet study twenty years ago, as they developed an online working friendship. Lenny's editorial leadership on their previous book with IGI Global taught Joan the process needed for creating this book. Joan met Roy M. Berko when he was Associate Director of the National Communication Association, and he has mentored her through the research and writing process for twenty years. Andrew D. Wolvin of the University of Maryland continues to challenge Joan to rethink and write about how to use technology for better communication. Maura Linas, of the University of Kansas Juniper Garden Children's Project, has encouraged Joan to find new ways of thinking and teaching. Rodger D. Palmer has provided 35 years of unending love and technology expertise, both of which seem essential to survival. Joan thanks her father, George C. Aitken, who at age 100 still wants to hear about her latest book project. Joan appreciates George's dedication to learning new technologies, which continues today. Joan thanks Copper Aitken-Palmer because her contributions to the advancement of knowledge are inspirational. Joan thanks Wade Aitken-Palmer because he challenges her to see new perspectives. Joan appreciates her friends Miho Ikebe, Mary Ann Burns, and Sharon Bussard who have modeled the best ways to nurture all children. Joan thanks Yu Cheng, who taught her that even when people cannot "talk," they can communicate through technology.

Joy Pedego Fairley gratefully acknowledges her appreciation and support from her University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) and Kansas City Regional Professional Development Center (KCRPDC) colleagues and family. Dr. Rita Barger, Chair of the School of Education, has been an unending source of support and encouragement throughout Fairley's career at UMKC. Ms. Linda Kostner, Interim Director of the KCRPDC, has been the model of patience as Fairley has settled into her new position. Dr. Raol Taft, Special Education Assistant Professor has been a true friend and comrade as they encountered a period of transition together. Fairley expresses love and devotion to her husband, Michael K. Fairley, for his remarkable sense of humor and faithfulness throughout this project. And finally, to the late W. W. Wisdom, a brilliant man who spent half a lifetime in a wheelchair, prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Wisdom was a man with a disability who endured numerous indignities but, was handicapped only by the times he lived in due to the lack of technology to support him in his daily life and work.

Judith Kaye Carlson extends her heartfelt appreciation to her colleagues, friends, and extended family for their years of encouragement and support. She sends her love to Kay and Jerry Carlson for always believing she could do anything and for telling her that she would. To her many mentors Dr. Patricia Gallagher, the late, great Dr. Floyd Hudson, Dr. Steven Colson, Dr. Rita Barger, Dr. Sue Vartuli, Dr. Frankie Dissinger, Dr. Joyce Downing, Dr. Maura Linas, Dr. Sandy Clutter, Dr. Mary Spillane, and Ms. Judy Carroll, please know Judi will always cherish the knowledge, the discourse, the courage, the lunches, and the bonfires. She thanks her colleagues at Rockhurst University for the new journey they have embarked upon together. Judi gratefully acknowledges Kathy Steiner for unconditionally sharing her love and her lifeline. Finally, Judi expresses eternal devotion to her longtime companion, Alex Kay Thompson. Judi is touched by the wonderment of every day they spend together and, of course, thanks her for giving her the first Tandy word processor she ever owned.

We appreciate the essential help in keeping track of files and information in this process provided by Gabriela Sa Teles, Park University.

A special *thank you* goes to the staff at IGI Global, particularly our developmental editor, Mike Killian.

*Joan E. Aitken*  
*Park University, USA*

*Joy Pedego Fairley*  
*University of Missouri-Kansas City, USA*

*Judith K. Carlson*  
*Rockhurst University, USA*