## Acknowledgment

If you come out of a design background, when asked why do you design?: the answer would be "because I have to." Creating, designing, and producing are part of who I am—my being and existing. I need to create. However in academia, the creative side is not as valued. There is room for innovation in the work we do as educators. Finding that creativity again is part of what designing for and about culture is all about. Being creative is something I thought I had lost in the process of buckling down and becoming an academic; however the culture-based model builds on theory, methodology, practice, design and creativity beyond my scope of reasoning. This is truly a constructed model.

That said, there are many who I would like to thank for supporting this creative process. At the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Deans John Jefferies and Kathy O'Dell directly participated in the support of this scholarship. During the two years of concentrated writing and revisions, I utilized the help of many UMBC Department of Education graduate assistants and I extend a warm thanks to them.

I would like to thank the IGI Global team and Jan Travers (Vice President of Editorial) for their help through this journey. I appreciate their patience.

My development as a professor/researcher can be accredited to a variety of individuals in addition to those who encouraged me along the way. They include the following professors:

Michael Banks, New York Institute of Technology, USA
Renee Clift, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Ann DeVaney, Emeritus, University of Wisconsin at Madison, USA
Anne Haas Dyson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Patricia Edwards, Michigan State University, USA
Lily Wong Fillmore, Emeritus, University of California at Berkeley, USA
Sarah Warshauer Freedman, University of California at Berkeley, USA
Michele Foster, Claremont Graduate University, USA
Bernard R. Gifford, University of California at Berkeley, USA

Etta R. Hollins, *University of Southern California, USA*Jean Lave, Emeritus, *University of California at Berkeley, USA*Donald J. Leu, *University of Connecticut, USA*Jabari Mahiri, *University of California at Berkeley, USA*Pedro Noguera, *New York University, USA* 

A special thanks to colleagues who reviewed drafts offering constructive feedback and suggestions on how to improve this manuscript. In addition, I would like to thank Rita Richey for writing the forward and acknowledge her valuable contributions to the fields of instructional design and technology.

I would like to send a big hug to my family and friends. In particular, my mother Minnie listened tirelessly to my anguish, fears and surprises. My sister Debbie continued to provide me with supportive jokes. My sister Angel lent many an ear over the years and did so again in this process. My sister Brenda, brother Johnnie, and sister-in-law Anna, gave me individual support in their own special ways. Thanks to my friend and colleague Dr. Tryphenia Peele-Eady who listened and offered advice to my ideas even when they were out of her field of study. Cheryl Blackwell-Johnson is a friend and colleague who supported me in the collection of data and soothed me through this time. Finally, a special thanks to Frank James Eagles who talked me through many of these ideas, supported my professional development and designed some of the graphic figures.

This has been an informative journey.