Acknowledgments

When I started to dream of creating a writing center for the students I saw five days per week each year, I knew that the most advanced, the least skilled, and the highly creative writers all needed a place for their writing, a community of writers, an ear to listen, and a voice to respond. So did I. My place changed from a shared house on Martha’s Vineyard, when I was taking summer writing courses through Northeastern University, to hotel rooms at NCTE conferences, when I was not in my special room at home. My writing community has grown since I began that dream, but I still have the original members at the nucleus of the circle. Tim Donovan of Northeastern University, Susan Kirby of Radford University, and Debby Andrews of the University of Delaware were my ears and voices back in 1981–82 because they have always been dreamers, too. With their encouragement plus the support of my principal, Dr. Robert Nogueira, and superintendent, Dr. Donald Warner, I took the risk, wrote the proposal, and created a writing center. It was, however, the students who made everything work. Year after year, the tutors volunteered their free time because they believed in the project, and the student writers brought even more students to the writing center to become part of this community.

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Frequently, we overlook the influence of professional groups that have inspired us much more than we realize. Through the New Jersey
Council of Teachers of English, the National Writing Center Association, the Assembly on Computers in English—all affiliates of NCTE—I have been able to share and learn from colleagues around the world. Through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, I have worked with other English instructors on professional endeavors and been inspired by poets who have shared their sensitivity and vision.

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