Acknowledgments

To the contributors of this collection for their perseverance and dedication to our students, and to the students who give our work purpose. To Norbert Elliot, for his friendship and for his unending work in assessment to uphold students’ dignity. To the family, friends, and colleagues who have sustained me in the midst of a global pandemic: Robert and Patti Nastal, Drew and Colleen Nastal, Ariana and Deane Pantaleo, Bridie, Jules, Ava, Rowan, James, Beau, Tom Brennan and Diane Monnich, Albert Letizia, Michael Lewis, John Raucci, Bethany Johnsen, Ashley Rowden, Hanna Auza, Christine Brooms, William Condon, Melanie Ed-dins-Spencer, Jason Evans, Christopher Fogarty, Jessica Gravely, Angela Hung, Andrew Schott, Dana Trunnell, Justin Vidovic. To Elise Blaise, who fills my life with joy. Thank you to Mya and Christie, too.

— J.N.

My deepest thanks to my colleagues, Jessica, Christie, and the remarkable contributors to this collection. A special thanks to my dear friend, mentor, and collaborator, Norbert Elliot who has helped me navigate many troubled waters and inspired me to reach further. Thank you to the scholarly muses who have long shaped thinking—Gloria Ladson-Billings, bell hooks, Sonia Nieto, Arnettha Ball, Geneva Smitherman, Keith Gilyard, Tukufu Zuberi, and Asa Hilliard III. I return to you often. Thank you to the kick-ass muses who push my thinking to-day—Ellen Cushman, Jennifer Randall, David Slomp, Maria Elena Olivera, and Tieanna Graphenreed—and to the fearless data queens—Qianqian Zhang-Wu, Cherice Escobar Jones, Cara Marta Messina, and Devon Regan. Thank you to my husband John Aloysius Cogan Jr. who shares in working to change the needlessly cruel processes of inequity while co-managing a wild household. And as always, to my children and other people’s children who sent me on this journey decades ago.

— M.P.

Thank you to mentors Hildy Miller, Steve Reder, Anne Ruggles Gere, and Laura Aull, all of whom provided me with early opportunities to learn about writing placement. Special thanks to the many two-year college colleagues who have taught me so much about writing placement in open admissions settings over the last decade, with particular shout-outs to community college faculty in Washington, Arizona, and the City University of New York. Finally, thank you to my partner, Ben, and to our elders—Mom, Stuart, Faith, Off, and John—who shouldered so much childcare while I worked on this collection through the pandemic.

— C.T.

A special thanks to the team at the WAC Clearinghouse—Aimee McClure, Aleashia Walton, Jagadish Paudel, and Mike Palmquist. Your unfailing support of academic scholarship is a gift.
Thank you to the anonymous reviewers for their support of this project. We appreciate your wisdom in helping us guide this collection. And thank you to copyeditor Meg Vezzu for the care and diligence you put into this project.

A special thank you to Julie Baer for graciously allowing us to use her image as cover art for this collection. The contributors in this collection are drawn to the vibrant colors Baer chose for Pine Green and to the idea of confluence—of bringing ideas together from disparate locations. For Baer, confluence was to acknowledge the multiple forces that brought her back to painting after a 15-year hiatus as a writing teacher. The artwork reminds us that nature is foundational, beautiful, and functional, systematic and adaptive—and that assessment systems, too, are a dynamic part of larger ecologies within education.

— J.N., M.P., and C.T.