Foreword

In 1991, a small group of professors founded the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC) as a support group for nascent programs and centers focused on the study of nonprofit/nongovernmental organizations, voluntary action, and/or philanthropy. Since then we have grown into an international membership association comprised of over 50 member centers and academic programs in the United States, UK, Russia and Australia. Over the years, NACC has remained steadfast in its support of centers and programs that provide education and research about, and academically based services for, the nonprofit/ nongovernmental sector and philanthropy.

It has been my honor to serve on the NACC board for nine years and as the president for the past three years. During that time, NACC has hosted four research conferences, two in Chicago, one in Indiana and another in London. We have introduced Nu Lambda Mu, a national honor society for both graduate and undergraduate students studying nonprofits and philanthropy. NACC has been headquartered at the Maxine Levin School of Public Affairs at Cleveland State University until our recent move to the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A & M University.

In 2015, NACC held a successful “summit” on nonprofit/philanthropy accreditation that resulted in a decision by the NACC board to begin accrediting standalone nonprofit degree programs in 2018. I’ve had both the privilege and opportunity to lead various committees through developing the NACC accreditation process and initiated the hiring of Stuart Mendel to serve as the NACC fellow overseeing the accreditation process and external review committees.

While NACC is rightly proud of these many accomplishments, we recognize that our “bread and butter” is and will likely always be the NACC Curricular Guidelines for Graduate & Undergraduate Study in Nonprofit Leadership, the Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy. The NACC guidelines form the basis for our accreditation process, our conferences and ideally the courses taken by our students.

During my time on the NACC board, countless program directors and academic faculty members have told me how useful the NACC guidelines are. NACC’s desire for these curricular guidelines to be actively used in curriculum
development has led both to a 2015 revision of the original guidelines and to the creation of a systematic and inclusive process for future revisions.

I met Heather over ten years ago when she was finishing up her doctoral studies at the University of San Diego. Heather has studied nonprofit academic programs and courses during that time and also studied with my colleague at Seton Hall University, Roseanne Mirabella. I was excited to learn of Heather and Karabi’s book during a NACC membership meeting. Although there have been a handful of articles focused on nonprofit management education that discuss the NACC guidelines in the context of course syllabi, and program management, this book appears to be the first of its kind to focus on applying the NACC curricular guidelines in teaching nonprofit management.

This book is a testament to how the field of nonprofit management education has grown exponentially in the last twenty years and to NACC’s role in that growth process. I was pleased to see the majority of chapter authors and reviewers come from NACC member centers and programs. Reading this book, I was also happy to see that the authors work to intertwine theory, practice and application into the areas of each area of nonprofit management. Each author is also an expert in their own respective area and provides thoughtful teaching exercises and discussion questions. The book also provides some additional areas for consideration for future NACC guidelines. I appreciate how Karabi and Heather included chapters that discuss philanthropy, social enterprises and critical perspectives of nonprofit management education. These chapters and more challenge us to be more effective instructors in our craft of nonprofit management education. This book is extremely relevant and helpful to new and established instructors of nonprofit management courses as well as academic program directors.

Finally, this book is testimony to the supportive community of nonprofit/philanthropy scholars and practitioners that NACC has always tried to be. Thank you to Heather, Karabi and all of the authors for this important contribution to that community and to the field.

Matthew Hale
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