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The chapters in this book are all based on original research conducted by members of the Latin American part of the Global STEP Project. While the STEP theoretical framework and research methodology have served as a shared general frame for all studies conducted, the individual teams have put their unique mark on each of the specific studies reported in the separate chapters. The final chapters included in the book have gone through a process of both formal and informal reviews over the course of several years. The editors and authors have discussed drafts in numerous meetings in places including Boston, Miami, Quito, Mexico City, Bogota and San José. The research reported in the book is in many ways truly international.

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All in all, we hope that this book has become more than the sum of its parts. In addition to reporting interesting findings from a unique global research project, we would like to think that this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of entrepreneurship and family businesses in Latin American contexts. As we argue in the book’s introductory chapter, to date very little research has been conducted that focuses on the specific opportunities and challenges faced by entrepreneurial organizations in Latin America. We hope that this book will inspire future researchers to devote their scholarly attention to entrepreneurial issues in this exciting, colorful, growing and bustling part of the world!

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