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We would like to see this book as the result of a true process of collaboration. As with most forms of collaboration, producing this book has been associated with challenges, frustration and surprises. But also with a great deal of fun, exciting conversations and rewarding learning experiences. The fun side of editing this book has been related to the extraordinary people involved in the Latin American team of the Global STEP Project. We would like to thank all of you, both contributing authors and those of you in the team who have not contributed with a chapter, for your professionalism, intellectual integrity and friendship.

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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