

Acknowledgements

This volume emerges from the 2010 DIANA International Conference on Women's Entrepreneurship Research held in Banff, Canada. It continues the very lively 'global conversation' sparked by the original founders of the DIANA project: Candida Brush, Nancy Carter, Elizabeth Gatewood, Patricia Greene and Myra Hart. Since its inception, the DIANA project has been a rich source of scholarly inspiration. We want to thank the DIANA founders for their leadership in encouraging research and collaboration on women-led business, and for providing us with the memorable experience of hosting the 2010 DIANA conference in Canada. Sincere thanks also to the conference delegates from 20 countries around the globe whose participation, enthusiasm and innovative research did so much to make the 2010 DIANA conference a success.

We are deeply grateful to the contributors to this volume for responding to our call for new research and thinking about the 'diversity' of women's entrepreneurship. The 12 chapters presented here showcase the work of 26 researchers hailing from seven different countries. Each contribution offers a unique perspective on the field, broadening existing horizons of knowledge and providing fresh glimpses of women's enterprise around the globe. It has been a pleasure to work with this talented group of scholars and we thank each of them for sharing research that contributes to a richer, more robust understanding of the field.

Fruitful research collaboration relies not only on good ideas and dedicated colleagues, but also on strong institutional support. We are very grateful to the original sponsors of the 2010 DIANA conference whose generous support has made this collaborative book project possible: the Alberta School of Business at the University of Alberta; Babson College; the Department of Strategic Management and Organization within the Alberta School of Business; and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Special thanks to Mike Percy and Yoni Reshef at the Alberta School of Business for their enthusiastic support of the DIANA conference from start to finish, and to Kerri Calvert at the University of Alberta for help in securing SSHRC funding.

As we put the finishing touches on this manuscript, we are keenly aware of the 'many hands' that have lightened the work. We especially want to

thank Jacqueline Solc for lending her superb organizational talents to the 2010 DIANA conference, and William Silver for his stellar editorial assistance in the final stages of this project. At Edward Elgar, we have been fortunate to work with Alan Sturmer and Caroline Cornish, whose helpful advice and encouragement have been greatly appreciated at so many points along the way. We also want to thank the editors of the previous DIANA books for providing such helpful advice and excellent templates for us to emulate: Candida Brush, Nancy Carter, Anne de Bruin, Patricia Greene, Elizabeth Gatewood, Myra Hart and Colette Henry.

Finally, in an age where global collaboration is more and more the norm, it has been a pleasure to work with a colleague who is 'just down the hall'. We thank one another for an enjoyable collaboration, and also extend heartfelt thanks to our families for their enthusiastic support and encouragement of our work.