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FROM THE SERIES EDITOR

About This Publication. Since 1980, *New Directions for Teaching and Learning (NDTL)* has brought a unique blend of theory, research, and practice to leaders in postsecondary education. *NDTL* sourcebooks strive not only for solid substance but also for timeliness, compactness, and accessibility.

The series has four goals: to inform readers about current and future directions in teaching and learning in postsecondary education, to illuminate the context that shapes these new directions, to illustrate these new directions through examples from real settings, and to propose ways in which these new directions can be incorporated into still other settings.

This publication reflects the view that teaching deserves respect as a high form of scholarship. We believe that significant scholarship is conducted not only by researchers who report results of empirical investigations but also by practitioners who share disciplined reflections about teaching. Contributors to *NDTL* approach questions of teaching and learning as seriously as they approach substantive questions in their own disciplines, and they deal not only with pedagogical issues but also with the intellectual and social context in which these issues arise. Authors deal on the one hand with theory and research and on the other with practice, and they translate from research and theory to practice and back again.

About This Volume. The rise of learning communities among faculty members at institutions of all sizes and types seems to harken back to the original purpose of a university as a place where great minds came together. These days new faculty often complain that this expected ideal is not the reality. Experienced faculty speak of being isolated in their classrooms and missing the give and take of graduate life. The faculty learning communities movement can be a solution for these and many other problems of today's diverse institutions. This issue provides both the theory and practice needed for bringing these communities to life on your campus.

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Editor-in-Chief

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