ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In many ways this book has been in the making since we first met and participated in a small research group exploring the “intersections” of gender, race, and ethnicity in 1978. Since then, contributing to a growing scholarship on intersectionality has been both a compelling intellectual enterprise and a personal passion that is reflected in all of our scholarship. This collection, however, is more immediately an outgrowth of our collaborative work in developing the Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity (CRGE) at the University of Maryland. Founded in 1998 and directed first by Bonnie Thornton Dill and now by Ruth Enid Zambrana, CRGE’s mission is to promote, advance, and conduct research, scholarship, and both faculty and student development that examines the intersections of race, gender, and ethnicity with other dimensions of difference and inequality.

In the process of developing the scholarly directions of CRGE, we have had the opportunity to meet and interact with a number of outstanding scholars, “fellow travelers” who embrace the explanatory potential of intersectional theory and share our commitment to social justice and social change. The contributors to this collection have all expressed a belief that this book is essential and would make an important contribution to the different disciplines it represents. We would like to thank each of them for their exemplary scholarship, cooperation, and patience in the writing experience. We would especially like to thank Patricia Hill Collins for writing the foreword to this book. Her voice has provided important theoretical foundations for our scholarship and inspiration in fostering the empowerment of people of color.

In the process of implementing CRGE’s research mission, we sought and received funding to undertake several important initiatives. A number of the chapters in this collection are the product of those initiatives and we are particularly grateful to the institutions that provided the financial support to undertake this work. Funding from the Ford Foundation supported the establishment and maintenance of CRGE and a number of the initiatives that resulted in chapters for this book, including both the work on intersectionality in higher education and a set of commissioned papers on poverty and intersectionality. We wish to acknowledge the visionary support of Margaret

Wilkerson and Cynthia M. Duncan, the program officers who helped us develop these projects and Janice Petrovich, who recognized innovative merit in our efforts. Grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation supported a series of research and action briefs, included in this volume, which synthesized data documenting disparities in key areas of the foundation's work to improve systems serving disadvantaged children and transform neighborhoods. The briefs were designed to give a nuanced understanding of the policies, practices, ideologies, and interactions that produce racial, ethnic, gender, and class disparities as well as information about strategies, tools, interventions, and other resources that can be effective in reducing their influence. We are especially grateful to Senior Vice President Ralph Smith whose vision created the opportunity and to Paula Dressel, the program officer, for her abiding confidence in our capability to carry out the assignment. We also acknowledge with gratitude a grant from the Institute for Women's Leadership at Rutgers University that contributed to the research on our own institution as well as the UCLA faculty awards program and Institutes of American Cultures grant that supported the original data collection for research on Mexican American and African American women in higher education. Over the years, offices and institutes at the University of Maryland have also funded the work of CRGE and we are grateful to Dean James F. Harris of the College of Arts and Humanities for his support of and confidence in our leadership and vision, the Office of the Provost, and the Maryland Population Research Institute in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences for their ongoing support. We would also like to acknowledge the fact that CRGE is an association of academic units and individual faculty on the University of Maryland campus and thus there are many places in the institution that have and continue to support and enhance our work, most notable among these are the African American Studies Department and the Curriculum Transformation Project, collaborators in several of the Ford Foundation Grants. We are particularly grateful to our colleagues in the Department of Women's Studies for championing the work and mission of CRGE and providing ongoing encouragement of and engagement in our work in both locations.

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Finally we dedicate this book to our brilliant and talented colleague, Linda Faye Williams (1949–2006) whose life and work exemplified engaged scholarship, a passionate commitment to social justice, and unerring focus on the eradication of social inequality.

Bonnie Thornton Dill
Ruth Enid Zambrana
December 1, 2007

Emerging Intersections