

## Foreword

I truly believed that the invitation to return to the room where I held my dissertation defense, having a firm handshake and the words, “Congratulations, Dr. Rausch,” meant the hardest part of my doctoral journey was complete. In some ways, it was. In other ways, late nights pouring over writing papers became late nights pouring over course preparation, grading papers, writing manuscripts, or preparing my Promotion and Tenure packet. Statistics tutoring turned into reviewing my texts, trying to transform the knowledge I gained into the knowledge I could share in a meaningful way. Coffee house visits with my laptop and peers remained coffee house visits with my laptop and peers.

I wish this text were available when I graduated. Just as our peers or cohort members helped us by normalizing our doctoral programs’ struggles and offering support and advice, peers and colleagues in the academy will help us with these same methods of support, simply in a different context. It is an honor to have met Dr. Moffett at an educational conference and to have the support and opportunities that the meeting provided me. I believe in this text and what it can offer readers.

This book offers so much more than I could imagine or outline in a few paragraphs. Dr. Moffett took everything you might need from dozens of texts and compiled them into what you have before you. The conversational tones, advice, support, sense of universality, and assistance gained from this text make it such a worthwhile read. From bridging this transitional time to making meaning through it all, finding ways to be successful (both mentally and professionally) as a new professional in the field, and potential roadblocks you may encounter—you will find it in these pages.

When Dr. Moffett imagined this book, COVID-19 was not on our radar. Now, more than ever, the need for this text is increasingly apparent. While we cannot fathom the changes to higher education, which may occur based on this worldwide pandemic, we can still connect with others through sharing ideas and support. This book is an offering of hands from those in the academy who have navigated some

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of these waters and wish nothing but success for you all. Enjoy these words, stories, and messages. Know that the doctoral degree joins us, but we as humans have the opportunity to deepen that connection.

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