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## **Preface**

When we first decided to write this book, we grappled with the essential question of how we could best help new international student and scholar advisers jump-start their careers. New advisers have a pressing need for practical advice and information that can help them on a daily basis, but they also need to frame their day-to-day issues in the broader historical and theoretical contexts that shape the profession. We realize that the latter may not be terribly interesting to new advisers, so we have tried to mix up the practical and theoretical sections and to interject real-life examples of how theory and practice intersect.

## **How to Use This Book**

We know that not everyone likes to read from front to back. This book does not need to be used sequentially, although there is some inherent sense in doing so. You may want to skim the whole book before doing any of the chapter follow-up activities that will help you build your skills in each area. Whatever you decide, we recommend that you do the activities in small increments as your schedule allows. It could take a year or more to complete the activities and years more to continue refining them. In Appendix D, we have consolidated all of the activities into a master list that begins with small, safe actions for you to take and ends with more complex activities that skilled advisers should be willing and able to take. It will be helpful to go back periodically and reread sections to make sure you are becoming a strategic professional in international education, not just a survivor adviser.

## **Disclaimer**

This book is not a 21st century version of Gary Althen's seminal work, *The Handbook of Foreign Student Advising*, first published in 1984 and revised in 1995. While we owe a debt to Gary for first conceptualizing a single volume, easy-to-use guide for international student advisers, we also acknowledge that the context in which new advisers are entering the profession has changed dramatically in the past ten years. Higher education in the United States is operating under some radically changed assumptions, the role of the United States in global politics has changed, and the people who are just now entering the profession are not necessarily drawn to it for the same reasons that their predecessors were.