

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I SHOULD BEGIN BY EXPRESSING what a pleasure it has been to write this book. Doing so has provided the luxury of exploring ideas brought forward by many thoughtful persons from diverse fields. My rather circumspect journey in this direction began when I was a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Michigan in the 1980s. At that time, Professor John Kingdon was studying the importance of agenda setting in public policy development, and he coined the term “political entrepreneur” to convey the importance of innovative idea generators and carriers in the public policy process.

This notion resonated with me as I entered a 10-year career in politics and public service, and it influenced my thinking as I began to more broadly consider social development issues upon returning to academia. In particular, I saw a similarity between the political entrepreneurs about whom Kingdon wrote and the emergence of social entrepreneurs in the business literature. As a faculty member in the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (UIUC), I became a fellow at the new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership in the School of Business in 2005, where I focused on understanding social entrepreneurship and its possibilities in human services program development and education. I then was fortunate to serve as a Fulbright Scholar at Nankai University in Tianjin, China, in 2010, and I used that time to develop many of the ideas for this book.

I am happy to thank many fine people for their intellectual ideas, encouragement, and tangible support related to this work. I have been

influenced a great deal in my thinking about social problems, governments, and markets by the work of Charles Lindblom and am continually grateful for this exposure. Anthony Mendez, then Director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at UIUC, brought together a diverse group of teachers and researchers to consider entrepreneurship more broadly than it often is, and he was very generous in the resources and support he extended to my work. Dean Wynne Korr of the UIUC School of Social Work likewise encouraged my pursuit of these ideas, as well as my Fulbright project.

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