

# Preface

The finest educational leadership does not necessarily happen behind the closed doors of principals' offices or during late-night board of education meetings. In fact, some of the most dynamic leadership in schools today happens in broad daylight and with classroom doors flung wide open. It is the leadership of teachers—big-spirited, compassionate, and inventive teachers who lead through their willingness to reach out to their colleagues and their communities. It is the leadership of teachers who are always on the lookout for ways to enhance their practice through the use of new technologies, through professional development, and through discovering and sharing the talents of the people living in their communities.

In the following pages, we offer stories from across the country written by teachers who have been recognized for the unique ways in which they serve as leaders within their schools. From offering “chem-mystery” experiments to finding their “lost Dutchmen” to bringing “Sweet Home Chicago” to Room 13, the stories that follow are inspiring and unique. We hope you enjoy them.

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to an outstanding group of teachers for sharing your stories with us. You stand at the educational “front line” and offer inspiration to so many people: other teachers, parents, community members, and, most of all, the children in your classrooms.

