Preface

Classrooms are more diverse than ever. The inclusive classroom brings about a student population many teachers do not feel adequately prepared to handle. Innovative technologies can provide many types of support for diverse learners. We wrote this book to provide teachers with a practical guide that deals with the issues of how to make the best use of available technology to meet the needs of diverse learners. Our treatment of diverse learners includes issues related to culture, gender, and special needs (physical and/or mental disabilities). In this book we approach the subject from a practical point of view in a user-friendly manner.

This book is divided into four chapters. Chapter 1 is an overview of the issues associated with diverse learners in the classroom including standards and guidelines for using technology with a variety of diverse learners. Chapter 2 focuses on the characteristics of various categories of diverse learners. This chapter is designed to be an overview of the types of diverse learners that many of us have in our classrooms. Chapter 3 explores the different kinds of assistive/adaptive technologies available today. In addition to describing the technology itself, we discuss the kind of student who might benefit most from the technology. Chapter 4 discusses combinations of instructional strategies, technologies, and types of learners who would benefit most from the strategies described.

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