

Preface

It is our pleasure and honor to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first publication of the *Handbook of Multicultural Counseling* with the publication of this fourth edition. Over the years, the *Handbook of Multicultural Counseling* has become a best-selling SAGE book that is cited internationally. The publication of a revised edition of the *Handbook* reflects the fact that the field of multicultural counseling continues to grow and change rapidly. Wanting to keep up with such changes, we have completely revised and expanded this newest edition to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive topical overview of the field.

From the onset, we note that in spite of content revisions, we have maintained the major objectives inherent in the previous editions: (a) to demonstrate the continuing advancement and applicability of multicultural counseling in our diverse society; (b) to give emphasis to current cutting-edge challenges and progress in multicultural counseling practice, theory, research, and training; (c) to increase the competence of researchers, educators, and practitioners to study, assess, understand, and intervene with multicultural persons; (d) to underscore and advance social justice as a core counseling value; (e) to contribute to the development of counselors who are more compassionate, sensitive to and effective in working with multicultural persons and issues; and (f) to support all information contained in the chapters with research and/or clinical-based evidence.

In the spirit of the previous editions, we decided to continue using these major driving themes to bring purpose, unity, and direction in pursuit of the above-mentioned goals: social justice, research, and utility. To this end, we asked the contributing authors to use these themes to guide and give life to their work.

With regard to social justice, we asked contributing authors to emphasize the importance of counselors' commitment to and development of a social justice perspective in their writings. In addition, they were asked to focus on social action and advocacy as a means of inciting change. To increase the academic and pragmatic value of the chapters, we requested that the authors provide cutting-edge research to support and validate the information contained in their chapters. Finally, working from the belief that a handbook on or for multicultural populations should have pragmatic and not merely heuristic value, the authors were asked to write on topics of timely relevance to the field and to do so in a manner that could be used by researchers, educators, practitioners, and students.

As mentioned above, some major features of the book have changed while others have remained the same:

1. Reflecting the continued rapid development and growth of the field of multicultural counseling, we continue to incorporate a large number of chapters that address up-to-the-minute topics in the *Handbook* (i.e., 46 chapters). While the categorical topics addressed may be similar (e.g., history, interventions, assessment), the content presented differs significantly from that contained in the third edition. Not including the Epilogue, this edition of the *Handbook of Multicultural Counseling* is organized into seven parts comprised of a total of 46 chapters. Each part has an introductory section that helps the reader to understand how it selectively addresses the objectives and themes that serve as the core of the *Handbook*.

2. As with the previous editions, close to 100 chapter coauthors, representing both seasoned, world-renowned scholars and practitioners as well as new, cutting-edge minds, have contributed their thoughts, ideas, and experiences to the contents of this new edition. It should be noted that out of the large number of authors included in this edition, only 12 contributed to the third edition. Similar to the past editions, the contributing authors represent a broad spectrum of the profession in terms of national origin and geographic locale, race, ethnicity, life and professional experiences, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, current ability-disability status, and employment emphasis. Represented among the authors are visionary, trendsetting scholars; master practitioners in a variety of clinical and counseling settings; experienced supervisors, administrators, and social justice advocates; and conservative/liberal change agents. Drawing from such a wealth of knowledge and experiences, what we said about the third edition still holds today: “Without question, this *Handbook* is the world’s most comprehensive singular resource on multicultural counseling theory, history, research, and practice.”
3. As previously mentioned, the one part of this new *Handbook* that remains unchanged from the second and third edition is Part II on life stories of eminent, visionary pioneers in the field. In this edition, 12 “new” pioneers or “elders” have honored us with their very personal life stories,

which we hope will inspire young and old alike to strive to attain their personal and professional goals, and most important of all, their dreams.

As with the previous editions, all royalties from the sale of this new edition will be alternately donated to the organizing committees of the Winter Roundtable on Multicultural Psychology and Education held annually at Teachers College, Columbia University, on the East Coast, and the American Psychological Association–sponsored biannual Multicultural Conference and Summit, usually held in the western part of the United States. The intent of the royalty distribution is to support student involvement in the conferences in whatever way deemed most appropriate by the conference organizers.

Suffice it to say that in the spirit of the past, this *Handbook*, like its predecessors, continues to provide a comprehensive and thorough snapshot of the multicultural counseling field as it is today, and also presents a vision as to how the field is evolving and developing. We once more feel honored to present this new edition to you, and we are proud of the work of all of the contributing authors who made this cutting-edge edition possible.

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