YOU'RE HIRED!

Putting Your Sociology Major to Work

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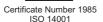
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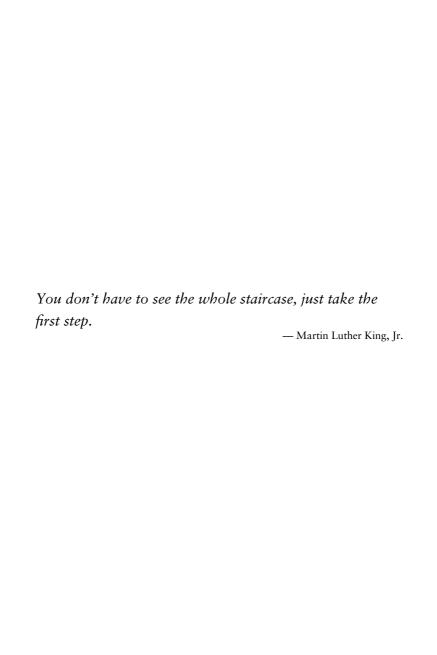
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This book is dedicated to my students — past, present, and future — as well as the teachers, mentors, and supporters who have provided me with direction and motivation throughout my own journey.

PRFFACE

You're Hired! Putting Your Sociology Major to Work has its origins in the questions, concerns, and misconceptions that have emanated from my students, their parents, other faculty, counselors, advisors, and employers over the nearly 40 years that I have been teaching. I have also been deeply touched by the numbers of former students who continue to correspond with me long after graduation, excitedly extolling new jobs, job transitions, newfound career goals, and especially, the life changes brought through marriage, family life, travel, and relocation. I've been impressed by the variety of career opportunities these graduates have found and how often they speak of loving their job. I am equally amazed by those who have been plying their trade for years and yet still demonstrate the excitement of fledgling sociologists as they speak of new research, responsibilities, and interests at the professional meetings I attend.

Yet, I recognize that the nature and value of sociology still remains largely misunderstood. So, through the stories of practicing sociologists, I intend for this book to clarify and demystify the confusion often associated with this discipline. Further, I hope this book will nurture growing interest in sociology by providing insights about its use in our contemporary world and rapidly changing labor market. Moreover, I am hopeful that the information, particularly in Part III, will benefit not just sociology majors but anyone pursuing a new career or transitioning to another. Additionally, I anticipate this book will spark enthusiasm about the vast array of exciting and fulfilling career opportunities avail-

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able to sociology majors in particular, but those with degrees in the liberal arts or other social sciences as well. Finally, I wish that you readers will find the stories of the people contained in this book enjoyable and that they will inspire each of you to pursue your dreams, however tentatively formed they might be at this time.

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Nearly every work ever published begins with a lengthy roll call of those to whom the author is grateful. This book is no exception.

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Without all of these individuals, this book would have remained a mere manuscript. Most of all, however, I am indebted to you, the reader. Whether you are a student or someone interested in a student's future, embarking on that first job, or transitioning from one career to another, I wish you the inspiration to put wings to your dreams.