

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my family for all of their continued love and support. First and foremost to my parents, Betty and Rick McCrary, for all their years of love and encouragement. It is because of their guidance and example that I am the woman I am today. I am extremely grateful and thankful for all they provided me in the past and continue to provide me today. Although their type of involvement has gone through many phases, one thing has never changed; their commitments to assisting me become the best person I can.

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