

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I owe thanks to a great many people who provided encouragement, friendship, wisdom, and patience. Gratitude and the utmost respect are owed to my committee members: Professors John W. Dickey, Philip S. Kronenberg, Joseph V. Rees, Gary L. Wamsley, and Charles T. Goodsell, my chairman, who guided the overall process from prospectus defense to dissertation writing. My committee maintained a steadfast belief in my ability to complete the dissertation even when on the rare occasion I may have doubted I would. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to my chairman who gave so freely of his time, invaluable insights, and gently nudged me up the hill toward the goal.

Thanks are also owed to Professor Joseph V. Rees, Director and John Talbott, Associate Director, Institute for Policy Outreach for their willingness to let me adjust my work schedule and their ongoing support of my dissertation efforts. Thanks as well to Kevin Long and Sharon Proffitt, colleagues, friends, and coworkers.

Special gratitude and the highest regard are owed to the Center for Public Administration and Policy for its true collegial environment, outstanding faculty, and uncommon interest in the hearts and minds of the students and graduates of the program. A special thanks to Professor Larkin S. Dudley, Program Director, whose warm greeting and smile sealed the selection of Virginia Tech over George Washington University.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to my wife and colleague, Ruth Shane, who has proofread, encouraged, and supported me throughout the process. Heartfelt thanks as well to my mother, Cora A. Dieckman, my mother-in-law, Alice N. Hardie, and my stepson, David P. Shane for their encouragement and faith in me.