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For this book, my colleagues and I worked closely with leaders in each organization to learn about their distinctive improvement journeys. We provide our take on their respective stories as a way to illustrate, amplify, and teach key improvement ideas in action. In some instances, we studied these organizations from outside; in others, we offered direct support as they launched and advanced their improvement efforts. Regardless, we acknowledge that the full range of work occurring in each of these organizations is much more extensive than our accounts, constrained to chapter length and a specific focus, permit.

Although each case stands on its own as an account of action for possible discussion among a group of readers, the chapters together show how the same principle, concept, or tool was applied by different teams and in different educational contexts. Seeing it at work across multiple and diverse contexts creates opportunities for these resources to be understood more flexibly and deeply than any one telling would allow.

Finally, each of the organizations has made real progress toward its improvement aims. It is notable that even given their documented successes, their organizational leaders remain humble about their improvement journeys. They acknowledge that they still have much more to learn and many miles still to go. In this sense, the chapters are dynamic portraits of improvement in action. I am deeply grateful that these six organizations have allowed us to share some of the *what*, *how*, and *why* of their efforts. They afford all of us an opportunity to see the extraordinary in the ordinary day-to-day work of getting better. Now, on to their stories.