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Editors' Introduction and Acknowledgements

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Some readers of this volume were expecting the title to contain the word "proceedings." Others, seeing "Volume 6" in the title, will wonder, "Where are the first five volumes?" Let us explain. All of the research papers published in this volume were first presented at the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors (CEO) Sixth Biennial Research Symposium. Articles from the first five CEO symposia were published as "proceedings." While the word "proceedings" rightly signaled that the papers were associated with a gathering of scholars (something we wanted to convey) the word "proceedings" conveyed to many that the articles were accepted for publication without review (something we did not want to convey). Articles appearing in this volume and earlier CEO "proceedings" have always passed two levels of blind review—one a screening of abstracts to be accepted for the symposium, the other a screening of articles submitted for the resulting publication. The CEO Research Committee wanted the name of our publication to reflect better the rigor and efforts of the authors and reviewers. *Research in Outdoor Education, Volume 6*, is the name the Committee chose.¹

A juried publication takes support and help from many different people. We are fortunate to have a strong Research Committee to guide the process and provide input on the conference as well as the publication. Our sincere thanks goes to the panel of reviewers who gave their time and expertise to provide valuable feedback to the authors. We also appreciate the thoughtfulness with which authors carefully considered the reviewers' suggestions and strengthened manuscripts, which resulted in much needed documentation to issues within the field of outdoor education. We believe the strength of the manuscripts found in this publication is evidence of the value and rigor of the peer-review process. We are also happy to publish many of the abstracts of the papers presented at the conference. While the abstracts were not refereed, their contribution to the field cannot be ignored. We hope that you also enjoy the special tribute to Rey Carlson written by Joel Meier. How fitting that our symposium was held at the same time as the remembrance of the 100th birthday of this well-loved icon of outdoor education!

We want to acknowledge the help and support of faculty and staff in North Carolina and New York. From the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduate assistants Brendan Moore and Becca Bregel were helpful in the review phase of the process and learned a lot about the "behind the scenes" work of publishing. Debra Hill, departmental secretary, was a lifesaver in formatting the articles into a single volume. We also thank SUNY Cortland and its Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies for its continuing support of the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors and its endeavors. In this time of fiscal tightening, we find it hopeful that institutions still prioritize and support the production of scholarship such as these proceedings.

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¹ Copies of the first five "volumes" (proceedings) are still available from the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors. Contact <http://www.outdooredcoalition.org>