The EDUCAUSE Core Data Service (CDS) would not have been possible without the efforts of many individuals, whom we would like to acknowledge and thank here.

First, EDUCAUSE and the community it serves are extremely grateful for the leadership of the members of the EDUCAUSE Research Task Force who advanced the service from concept to reality. These information technology leaders from a dozen member campuses contributed their vision, expertise, and wisdom in addressing the myriad issues that arose as the service was imagined and thought through.

Next, we thank the hundreds of colleges and universities that complete and submit the core data survey annually. Without their support and willingness to participate, the service and this annual summary report would not exist. We appreciate the time and effort these campuses expend in completing the survey and trust that they are reaping a satisfactory reward in authorized access to the powerful interactive database service component of the Core Data Service.

The Core Data Service would also not exist were it not for the work of the imaginative and proficient group of IT professionals on the EDUCAUSE staff who developed and continue to refine the Web-based applications for both the core data survey and the interactive database service. The latter includes innovative tools that enable complex data comparisons by a number of demographic factors; provide statistical analyses such as means and medians on the fly for selected populations; calculate commonly sought ratios for benchmarking; and provide built-in trend analysis capability. EDUCAUSE is indebted to Becky Granger for continuing to improve and refine these important tools from year to year.

Despite the many help features and the availability of the Core Data Service tutorial, individual staff support is still required to assist participants. The EDUCAUSE Member Services team of Jan Brescia, Tammy Burkhart, Linda Kelley, and Kate McTurk does an admirable job of fielding and referring questions, technical issues, and other problems.

Finally, we would like especially to acknowledge the invaluable statistical analyses conducted by our analyst, Robert Nicolich. These analyses added rigor and understanding to the interpretation of the data.