## **Table of Contents**

List of Figures and Tables	vii
Foreword	
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	. xxiii
1 Unveiling the Hostility and Getting Situated	
in the Dropout Problem	1
A Community's Love	
A Snapshot of the Dropout Crisis	
Some Reasons Why School Culture and Dropout	
Have Not Been Introduced to One Another	8
The Significance of School Culture	13
2 Prioritizing Institutional Culture: Proposing the PUEDES	
Approach to Understand and Respond to the Dropout Crisis	15
Research Context and Conceptual Framework	17
The Structure-Culture-Agency Paradigm	18
The Paradigm to Understand and Examine Dropout	
and Engagement in Society (PUEDES) Approach	20
Understanding the Three Dimensions to the PUEDES Approach	20
Ramon	25
Understanding Ramon's Situation Through the PUEDES Approach	30
Next Steps: Putting PUEDES Into Action	33
3 Institutional Culture Under the Spotlight: Black and Latina/o	
Students' Voices and Experiences in Three Urban Cities	39
Discovering Recognition and Centering Student Voice	39
Boston: The PROS Project	41
Miami: The POWER Project	43
The Inland Empire: The PRAXIS Project	47
Lessons From Youth Across Three Cities:	
Vital Insights About School Culture	75

4 The Hope in Our Schools and Communities:	
Toward a 10-Point Plan to Respond to the Dropout Crisis	71
Using the 10-Point Plan	71
Point 1: Relationships	
Point 2: Student Voice	75
Point 3: Students as Intellectuals	78
Point 4: Learning From the Canaries in the Classroom	81
Point 5: Community-Relevant Curriculum	84
Point 6: Culture of Dialoguing	87
Point 7: The Struggle to Recognize	90
Point 8: School Assets	92
Point 9: Excellence	95
Point 10: Making Public Schools "Public"	97
5 Keeping the Canaries in the Classroom:	
Toward a Theory of Action	103
The PUEDES Approach: More Complexity and Relevance	104
Cross-Institutional Collaboration: Communities and Schools	104
Sustainability	108
Proposing Bold, 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Metrics	110
Goal Setting	113
A Call to Action Now:	
What We Can Do Today to Respond to the Dropout Crisis	113
Conclusion	117
Bibliography	119
Index	125