

Preface

The Governing Board of Editors of the American Biographical Institute USA is pleased to present to the biographical reference field the Seventh Edition of *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence*. The individuals whose biographies appear in this volume are exceptional. They are featured through this medium because of a respect for their distinctive leadership that truly has had a positive influence on others. By definition, these leaders demonstrate vision, integrity, and a sense of social commitment.

The creation of *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence* began in 1992 in commemoration of the American Biographical Institute's silver anniversary. The first twenty-five years of research and publishing efforts gained the Institute wide acclaim and the knowledge needed for honoring particularly special men and women. Now in its thirty-second year, the ABI is one of the largest independent publishers of biographies in the world. Copies of this edition will be placed in major libraries in the United States, including the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as well as in prestigious libraries in many other countries.

The Institute has been aided on many occasions by the members of its Research Board of Advisors. This global board, numbering over 10,000, helps the ABI in its search for outstanding achievement in a variety of professions and communities. Many thanks are offered to these board members for their assistance with this publication.

Special recognition is given to a few individuals whose biographies are highlighted in the beginning of the volume in addition to the main body of biographies. *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence* is dedicated to these few.

Congratulations to the admirable men and women permanently recognized through *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence*. You are an inspiration for present-day citizens and will surely be the focus of attention of future generations. We wish you continued success!

Governing Board of Editors
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE, INC.