

## Foreword



This project began with an idea—to collect stories that celebrated learning—although we didn’t know who would contribute them or what form the project would take. When we gathered the stories and read them, they challenged us, broke our hearts, inspired us, and perhaps, most importantly, taught us.

We were reminded of an important lesson: “Learning” defies borders and clear definitions, as do “teachers” and “students.” We found, for example, that teachers are not limited to those who stand at the chalkboard. Indeed, teachers are often the people students meet well before they sit at their desks. Likewise, students are not limited to those enrolled in classes, and learning often extends beyond the lesson plan.

We are all teachers; we are all students—all of us learn every day.  
The lesson is simple, but no less significant for its simplicity.

This project is a tribute to the relationships that grow when we welcome the learning opportunities we encounter every day, when we tend to the relationships that make Century College a vibrant community. In order to respect the rich, diverse voices in this collection, we limited our editing. In some cases, we allowed idiosyncratic language usage to preserve the voices of the Century members who have touched and been touched by a broad range of teachers and students.

Enjoy this collection—and may you learn something about yourself as you journey through its pages.

—*Cheryl Gfrerer and Pakou Vang, July 2007*