ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to start by thanking the three wonderful members of my committee – Dr. Barbara Brizuela and Dr. Analucia Schliemann of the Education Department and Dr. Chris Rogers of the Mechanical Engineering Department. Without Barbara and Ana’s dedication, the MSTE program would not have been a success, and they have been instrumental in pushing me to understand the world of education. Chris has been a continued source of support for the past six years, and has helped me pursue my passion for engineering education.

My peers and coworkers in the MSTE program and at TUFTL and the CEEO have been invaluable in their support, friendship, and help with this project. In particular I would like to thank Christine Cunningham for her valuable insights, Catherine Petronino, Brian Gravel, Elissa Milto, and Morgan Hynes for their patience, assistance, and great senses of humor, Laura Beals for her laughter and incredible editing skills, and Merredith Portsmore for more support over the past five years than I can describe, and without whom nothing would get done. Thank you to Emily Ryan for pitching in at the workshops and Lisa Moretti, Kaitlyn Conroy, and Melissa Pickering for their incredible drive, energy, and enthusiasm both at work and outside of it. Thanks to everyone at TUFTL for critiquing my presentations and for your competitive spirit, especially Matt Dombach and Beth Dwyer for all our years together at Tufts.

Finally, I want to thank my friends and family for their love, without which I would have never made it this far. For Andy Riecker, Kim Hanley, Jon Snyder, Jess Cooney, Jason Clemente, and Jackie Kallman who are my second family, thanks for
always being there. A big thanks to my sister for always helping me laugh, and for my parents who have always encouraged me to follow my dreams and are my inspiration.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0307656. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation (NSF).