Education is critical for the progress of individuals and societies—and changes in both technology and commerce encourage new approaches to learning and teaching. Around the world, the level of educational personalization and diversity of possible educational environments is increasing. New devices, analytical approaches and tools, instrumentation of the learning process, and digital blended learning are all continuing to change traditional educational models and improve educational outcomes.

We are delighted to present this special issue of the *IBM Journal of Research and Development* that discusses ways that learning environments are incorporating digital models—while exploring the impact of analytics to increase educational personalization and improve performance. We note that this is the first special issue of our journal devoted to technologies for educational transformation, and this reflects the increasing importance with which IBM is viewing this topic and effort—and the intent of IBM to help shape efforts in this exciting area, as a technology provider and a leading corporate citizen. Our solutions draw on our strengths in analytics, mobile, cloud, content management, and cognitive technologies. The papers in this issue, in particular, span the range from various educational platforms to personalized learning, student and teacher engagement, tutoring concepts, and natural language processing.

The large array of new approaches to improve educational experiences and outcomes will increase educational availability and engagement, while lowering the cost of access. We hope that this special issue will inspire readers and provide insights regarding how education will evolve over the next few years.

We congratulate the authors on the significant research and development projects reported here and look forward to our continuing to work in areas relating to this rapidly changing field of educational transformation.

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