ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My accomplishments as a scholar, including this dissertation, have been made possible by the help and support of many kind people whom I would like to mention in this acknowledgement.

No words can express my gratitude for my major advisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siriorn Sindhu, for her kind support, encouragement and generosity. Under her guidance, I have gained many valuable perspectives and opportunities. I will hold dear everything she has taught me in my deepest heart respect her as my greatest teacher and role model.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Assoc. Professor. Dr. Anne Teitelman, my mentor and co-advisor at the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, for her encouragement and advice throughout my time in the United States until I returned to Thailand, especially in my manuscript preparation.

Many sincere thanks also go to my co-advisors, Asst. Prof. Dr. Wantana Maneesriwongul and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chukait Viwatwongkasem, for their motivation, constructive comments and valuable suggestions. I am also grateful to Assist. Prof. Dr. Wanlaya Thampanichawat, Chairperson of my dissertation defense committee, who gave me beneficial instructions. I am truly grateful to Prof. (Emeritus) Dr. Dwip Kitayaporn, my external examiner, who devoted his valuable time to offering me thoughtful suggestions in dissertation defense. I would like to express my appreciation to all of the experts who examined the content validity and translation of the research instruments.

My sincere thanks are further extended to Asst Prof. Dr. Pikul Nantachaipan, Faculty of Nursing, ChaingMai University; Asst. Prof. Dr. Ameporn Ratinthorn, Asst. Prof. Dr. Wanpen Pinyopassakul, Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University; and Asst.Prof. Dr.Raumporn Kongkumnerd, School of Nursing, Suranaree University of Technology, for their kindness, sharing and encouragement. I am thankful to all of the professors in the Doctoral Program in Nursing, Mahidol University, for their constructive contributions to my scholarly cognitive skills. I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Marjorie A. Muecke, Assistant Dean for Global Health Affairs, and her staff for facilitation and caring throughout my visit at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sincere thanks also go to all of the youth participants involved in this research as well as the school directors and teachers who helped me during data collection. I am also truly thankful for my classmates, all of the new generation of health system researchers and all of my former colleagues at Phayao and Phitsanulok for their continued sharing and emotional support.

Special recognition goes to the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, for providing me with a scholarship and full-time for study. My profound gratitude is extended to all administrators and colleagues at the School of Nursing, Mae Fah Luang University, for permission to conduct this study. This research scholarship was provided by the National Research Council of Thailand for which I will be ever grateful.

Lastly, I will never forget the love and encouragement of my family who helped me survive this daunting task. In particular, I would like to express my deep gratitude for my beloved mother, father and aunt who inspired and supported me.

Kulrawee Wiwattanacheewin