

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents
June 18, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

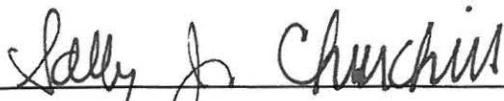
Warren C. Whatley, Ph.D., professor of economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2015.

Professor Whatley received his B.A degree from Shaw University in 1972 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University in 1978 and 1982, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan as a lecturer in 1981, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1982, associate professor in 1987, and professor in 1996. He served as an associate dean in the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies from 1992-95 and held an additional appointment in the Center for AfroAmerican and African Studies from 1992-2010.

An exceptional economic historian, Professor Whatley studied the economic history of African Americans in the United States through the application of sophisticated economic methods and theories to historical problems and historical data. His early research focused on the history of the southern United States, the history of mechanization, and cotton plantation agriculture. Professor Whatley developed and utilized archival data from the Ford Motor Company and the Byers Corporation to critically examine discrimination in labor markets during the Great Migration of African Americans to Detroit and other northern cities. His work illuminated the past as well as the present, enabled strong tests of a variety of theories in modern labor economics, and provided valuable historical perspective on a variety of current policy issues related to race and discrimination. More recently, Professor Whatley's research explored the economic, political, and social legacies of the transatlantic slave trade within the context of contemporary African nations. He created dynamic learning environments, served as a dissertation advisor for students specializing in economic history, and generously shared his time and expertise as a faculty mentor in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. Professor Whatley was actively involved in a number of professional organizations including the American Economic Association, the Economic History Association, the National Economic Association, and the African Studies Association.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Warren C. Whatley, professor emeritus of economics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2015