

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Melva G. Craft-Blacksheare, D.N.P., CNM, RN**, associate professor of nursing in the School of Nursing, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

Professor Craft-Blacksheare received her M.S.N. degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1994 and her D.N.P. degree from Oakland University in 2010. She joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty in 2011, was promoted to assistant professor of nursing in 2013, and associate professor of nursing, with tenure, in 2019.

Professor Craft-Blacksheare has a long history of advocating for the community as a practicing midwife and nurse educator. She has been a nurse in the maternity and obstetrics field since 1992 and has made it her focus of advocacy. Her research centers on black maternal mortality, the Flint water crisis, and increased awareness of implicit bias among nurses. Her advocacy for underrepresented minorities facing inequities is evident as she holds a major role as a co-investigator for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing research study entitled Learning Across Multidimensional Perspectives (LAMP). She also held the position of primary investigator and project director of the “Eliminating Structural Racism in Nursing Academia: A systems change approach to anti-racist nursing education” funded by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, and the “Initiatives for Workforce Diversity” grant through UM-Flint along with other grants that help to decrease barriers and increase access to health care services. She worked determinedly with Doctor of Nursing Practice students, guiding them in a transformative approach as they thought about intimate partner violence and increasing access to care among underrepresented minorities with hypertension. She also advocated strongly for health equity as she connected with hundreds of students in the courses of Health Policy in Nursing, Health Promotion and Women’s Health.

In tandem with the above activities, Professor Craft-Blacksheare generated a long-lasting legacy at the UM-Flint School of Nursing. Her efforts in decreasing barriers and increasing health equity will resonate for years to come. Her ability to consistently devote her time to students and the community, her efforts toward diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, along with her strong dedication to the School of Nursing serve as profound role-modeling to all nurses and nurse educators.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Melva G. Craft-Blacksheare, associate professor emerita of nursing**.

**Requested by:**



---

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

**March 2024**