

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**


**Thomas J. Powell, Ph.D.**, professor of social work in the School of Social Work, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2017.

Professor Powell received his B.S. (1958) and M.S.W. (1960) degrees from Boston College and his Ph.D. (1966) degree from Smith College. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1966, and was promoted to associate professor in 1970, and professor in 1979.

Professor Powell's research focused on the intersection of mental health, substance use, and self-help groups. An accomplished researcher, he was the principal investigator on grants funded by the Ittelson Foundation, the Michigan Department of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). As principal investigator for the NIMH-funded Center for Self-Help Research, Professor Powell collaborated with a number of organizations, including the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, the National Alliance on Mental Illness Schizophrenics Anonymous, Recovery Inc., as well as several consumer-run agencies. He has also been an active participant in research on community support systems for consumers and family caregivers. Professor Powell published numerous articles in a number of leading scholarly journals, including *Advances in Social Work*, the *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, and *Psychiatric Services*. His graduate level courses explored the complexities of clinical practice, mental health policy, and mental disorders with a special focus on people with serious mental illness and how they obtain services in managed care and public health system environments. Professor Powell's accomplishments in research, scholarship, and service have earned him recognition as a mental health consultant for the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean region and election as a fellow to the American Orthopsychiatric Association. He generously shared his expertise and time with the local community as a board member of Washtenaw County's National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Home of New Vision.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Thomas J. Powell, professor emeritus of social work**.

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2017**