THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James S. Jackson, Ph.D., Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, professor of psychology, and faculty affiliate in the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and research professor in the Research Center for Group Dynamics (RCGD) in the Institute for Social Research, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Jackson received his B.S. (1966) degree from Michigan State University, his M.A. (1970) degree from the University of Toledo, and his Ph.D. (1972) degree from Wayne State University. Professor Jackson joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1971, and was promoted to associate professor in 1977, and professor in 1986.

Professor Jackson’s research contributions include founding and directing for over 40 years the Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA), which has become the flagship for research devoted to understanding racial and ethnic influences on physical and mental health of Black populations. An important study within PRBA is the National Survey of American Life, the most extensive social, mental, and physical health survey of the Black population ever conducted in the United States. He was involved in influential research on aging in underrepresented populations and creative research within the biopsychosocial model. His research program led to over 17 books and over 180 research articles that have influenced the research direction and thinking of entire fields. Another important legacy was Professor Jackson’s contribution to the mentorship and career development of scores of young scholars of color from many social science and public health disciplines. Professor Jackson received numerous university, national, and international awards. These include the American Psychological Association’s Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology (2019) and the Distinguished Service to Psychological Science Award (2016). He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, a member of the National Science Board, and a fellow in several other academic societies, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming James S. Jackson, Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Psychology, professor emeritus of psychology, and research professor emeritus, Research Center for Group Dynamics.

Requested by:

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

May 2020