

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Paula M. Lantz, Ph.D., University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, James B. Hudak Professor of Health Policy, professor of public policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of health management and policy, School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Lantz received her Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, from St. Olaf College in 1981, and her Master of Arts in sociology from Washington University, St. Louis in 1983. In 1991, she received both her Master of Science in preventive medicine-epidemiology and her doctorate in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Professor Lantz was a post-doctoral fellow in health policy research at the University of Michigan from 1994-1996. She joined the Michigan faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health, was promoted to associate professor, with tenure, in 2001, and to professor in 2006. From 2005-2011, Professor Lantz served as the chair in the Department of Health Management and Policy. In 2011, Professor Lantz became professor and chair of the Department of Health Policy, School of Public Health at George Washington University. She rejoined the Michigan faculty in 2015 as a professor of public policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy where she served as the associate dean for research and policy engagement from 2015-2016, the associate dean for academic affairs from 2016-2021, and the director of undergraduate programs from 2022-2025. In 2019, Professor Lantz was named the James B. Hudak Professor of Health Policy, and in 2023 was named a University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor.

As a social demographer/epidemiologist, Professor Lantz's scholarship, teaching, and policy engagement work has focused on the role of public policy in population health improvement and social inequalities in health. She is well-known and cited for her work on the key role that socioeconomic factors play in health disparities over the lifecourse and on how the "medicalization" of population health has contributed to an over-reliance on medical care policy as the primary solution for addressing population health problems. She has also led numerous studies on public policy approaches to cancer prevention, reproductive health, COVID-19, and housing as it relates to health. Her research has both contributed to scholarly insights and been used by many local, state and federal health agencies.

In recognition of her scholarship related to population health and health disparities, health care, and public policy, Professor Lantz was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2012 and the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2018. She received the University of Michigan Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 2023.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Paula M. Lantz, professor emerita of public policy and professor emerita of health management and policy.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Kinsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026