

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

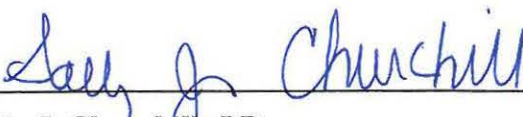
Melvin D. Williams, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2016.

Professor Williams received his A.B. (1955), M.A. (1969), and Ph.D. (1973) degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. He served on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh from 1979-82 and the University of Maryland, College Park from 1984-88. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1988.

Professor Williams's research topics are wide-ranging and have included Native American cultures of the Northwest Coast, Pentecostalism, urban studies, African American churches, critical race theory, psychological anthropology, class systems, sexism, and other forms of inequality. He studied the Belmar neighborhood of Pittsburgh for over 40 years and established a community museum there to document social change during the past century. Among his best known publications are *An Academic Village: The Ethnography of an Anthropology Department* (1993), *Race for Theory* (1998), *Community in a Black Pentecostal Church: An Anthropological Study* (2000), *The Black Experience in Middle-Class America: Social Hierarchy and Behavioral Biology* (2001), and *The Human Dilemma: A Decade Later in Belmar* (2001). Professor Williams taught several courses that addressed racism and human nature from a macro-anthropological perspective. He served as the director of the Comprehensive Studies Program from 1988-91 and became a faculty associate in the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies in 1992. Professor Williams contributed vital service to the American Anthropological Association, the Congressional Black Caucus, the City of Pittsburgh, and the NAACP, where he has long been active in educational and cultural affairs.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Melvin D. Williams, professor emeritus of anthropology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2016