

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Karen Strandholm, J.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of strategic management, College of Business, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2025.

Professor Strandholm received her B.B.A. in accounting from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1978 (*Graduate with Distinction*). She earned a J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1983 and a Ph.D. in strategic management and organizational theory with a minor in economics from Indiana University in 1996. From 1977 to 1980 she worked as a cost accountant for General Motors Corporation, Cadillac Division, before returning to school in 1980. From 1983 to 1991, she worked for several law firms in the areas of commercial finance, bankruptcy, corporate law, and mergers and acquisitions. From 1996 to 1997, after earning her Ph.D., she was a visiting assistant professor at Washington State University. In 1997, Professor Strandholm joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn as assistant professor of strategy. In 2003, she was promoted to associate professor and moved into administration soon after.

Professor Strandholm served as associate dean from 2006 to 2008 and department chair from 2013-2019. She served again as associate dean from 2019 to 2023 and was called upon once more to serve as department chair from 2020 to 2023.

Professor Strandholm is a dedicated teacher and administrator. She has publications in several journals, including *The Journal of Business Research* and the *Academy of Strategic Management Journal*. She taught a wide variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels and has served in several roles in the college, firstly as an undergraduate student, then faculty member, department chair, and associate dean, in addition to service on numerous committees and task forces.

As a former first-generation University of Michigan-Dearborn college student herself, she has touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of students. Professor Strandholm's most notable role, however, is that of mentor. Over her nearly 30-year career, Professor Strandholm has mentored many junior faculty and new administrators. She has provided a lasting example of leadership, integrity, and moral courage. Professor Strandholm also engages in community work through volunteering for neighborhood and non-profit organizations, as she maintained her Michigan Bar Association Membership throughout her academic career.

The Regents now salute this dedicated scholar and educator for her unwavering service to the university by naming **Karen Strandholm, associate professor emerita of strategic management**.

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**June 2025**