

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

### Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

#### Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Penny L. Riley, Ph.D.**, clinical assistant professor of nursing in the School of Nursing, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2026.

Professor Riley earned her ADN from Washtenaw Community College in 1984. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Eastern Michigan University in 1991, followed by a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Michigan in 1997. She then completed a Doctor of Philosophy in nursing at the University of Michigan in 2014. . Professor Riley has had a longstanding association with the University of Michigan School of Nursing, serving as a clinical instructor from 2004 to 2009 and as a LEO lecturer III from 2005 to 2007. She was appointed as a clinical assistant professor from 2015 to 2017 and again from 2023 to 2026. In addition, she served as the school's director of undergraduate studies from 2018 to 2023.

Professor Riley is a highly effective educator who teaches sophomore-, junior-, and senior-level medical-surgical courses in both clinical and didactic settings. Guided by an active learning philosophy, she promotes student engagement and critical thinking while contributing strong leadership to support operations and academic excellence. She coordinates complex orientation programs for diverse cohorts, ensuring smooth transitions for hundreds of students each year, and is a dedicated mentor to both students and junior faculty. Professor Riley also enhances the School of Nursing through her clinical practice, scholarship, and service. She has co-led a data-driven mental health first aid program, supported student success initiatives, and provided health coaching to older adults. Her research on cognitive function in older adults with heart failure addresses a critical need in an aging population and is disseminated through publications and presentations. An active member of Sigma Theta Tau, she contributes to committees focused on strengthening undergraduate programs and academic partnerships. Her comprehensive contributions make her a valued and exemplary faculty member.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Penny L. Riley, clinical assistant professor emerita of nursing**.

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. King', written in a cursive style.

**Jon Kinsey**

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2026