

The University of Michigan Regents Communication Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

David LeBlanc, Ph.D., research scientist in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on September 4, 2026.

Dr. LeBlanc received his B.S.M.E. and M.S.M.E. degrees in mechanical engineering from Purdue University in 1983 and 1985, respectively. He then received his Ph.D. degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan in 1994. He joined the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute's (UMTRI) faculty as an assistant research scientist in 1999, and was promoted to associate research scientist in 2013, and research scientist in 2025. Dr. LeBlanc was the head of UMTRI's Engineering Systems Group from 2010-2026.

Dr. LeBlanc's research has focused on safety-related requirements and evaluations of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and automated driving systems (ADS) for passenger vehicles and heavy trucks. Dr. LeBlanc may best be known as leading or enabling large, visible, and influential government-industry-academia efforts that accelerated the inclusion of ADAS on vehicles. His research has included large track and on-road studies with recruited participants or data-intensive efforts with federal sponsors to understand driver behavior with new driving safety systems. As a PI, he has led 53 projects (\$25 M) and supported many other projects (\$30 M). For the past 12 years, Dr. LeBlanc has been PI of an umbrella contract with the US DOT that resulted in 24 projects totaling \$17M on which 13 UMTRI faculty held PI or co-PI roles. Dr. LeBlanc hosted and shared UMTRI's driving data sets with other researchers, universities, and organizations, in collaboration with UMTRI research partners. He has been a participant in standards groups within SAE international and IEEE. Dr. LeBlanc was awarded the Kenneth E. Reese Outstanding Research Scientist Award by the College of Engineering in 2026.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **David LeBlanc, research scientist emeritus**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2026