

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

ACTION REQUEST

September 17, 2009

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Elizabeth Fay Sulzby, Ph.D., professor of education in the School of Education, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

Professor Sulzby received her B.A. degree from Birmingham-Southern College in 1963, her M.Ed. degree from the College of William and Mary in 1969, and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Virginia in 1977. From 1977-83, she was on the faculty of Northwestern University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1983, and was promoted to professor in 1990.

A leading authority on child literacy development, Professor Sulzby's research focused on the etiology, assessment, and applications of emergent literacy. She co-authored *Emergent Literacy: Writing and Reading (1986)*, which is credited with establishing the research field of emergent literacy. Her work sought to understand the dynamics of reading and writing behaviors and concepts that develop into conventional reading and writing. A prolific author and editor, Professor Sulzby published and reviewed numerous scholarly books, journal articles, and monographs.

An innovative instructor and dedicated mentor, Professor Sulzby taught undergraduate and graduate courses that focused on child language and literacy development, linguistics, and educational research methods. Professor Sulzby was president of Literacy Development and Young Children, a special interest group of the International Reading Association, from 1988-90. She was a member of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council's Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children from 1995-97, and is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the National Council on Research in Language and Literacy.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Elizabeth Fay Sulzby professor emerita of education.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2009