THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  

Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

Subject:  
Report of Faculty Retirement  

Action Requested:  
Adoption of Retirement Memoir  

John M. DeCicco, Ph.D., research professor and associate director in the University of Michigan Energy Institute, University of Michigan Office of Research, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2020.

Professor DeCicco received his B.A. (1974) degree from the Catholic University of America and his M.S. (1983) degree from North Carolina State University. He received his Ph.D. (1988) degree from Princeton University, where he conducted research at the university’s Center for Energy and Environmental Studies. After two decades in research and policy analysis roles in the environmental nonprofit community, he joined the University of Michigan faculty as a senior lecturer (2009-11) and then professor of practice (2011-14) at the School of Natural Resources and Environment. He was appointed research professor at the University of Michigan Energy Institute in 2011.

Professor DeCicco, a nationally known expert on transportation energy and environmental issues, addressed several aspects of energy use over his career. His early work was on energy use in buildings; he was lead author of the book Improving Energy Efficiency in Apartment Buildings (1995). Turning his focus to transportation during the 1990s, he published significant research that proved influential in updates to automobile fuel economy regulations. He chaired the National Research Council’s Transportation Research Board Energy Committee (1996-2000). He was lead co-editor of the book Transportation, Energy, and the Environment: How Far Can Technology Take Us? (1997). He also researched multi-sector climate mitigation strategies, serving as co-project director and lead editor of Energy Innovations: A Prosperous Path to a Clean Environment (1997) and co-editor of a special issue of Energy Policy (1998) on the topic. He pioneered methods for vehicle environmental ratings, publishing the Green Guide to Cars and Trucks (1998) and ACEEE’s Green Book: The Environmental Guide to Cars and Trucks (2000-03 in print, now online). His recent work on carbon accounting for biofuels led to notable papers in Climatic Change and other journals. Professor DeCicco served as a dedicated mentor to postdoctoral fellows and student researchers at the University of Michigan, and he provided valuable service by proposing and helping guide the development of new research initiatives as well as through Congressional testimony and other forms of public engagement.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming John M. DeCicco, research professor emeritus, University of Michigan Energy Institute.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2020