

The University of Michigan Regents Communication Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Judy Mousigian Nesmith, M.S., lecturer IV in biological sciences in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2026, after more than 35 years of distinguished service to the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Professor Nesmith joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty in September 1990 and devoted her career to undergraduate biology education. Over the course of her tenure, she taught thousands of students in introductory biology courses, helping them build scientific knowledge, critical thinking skills, and confidence for success in the life sciences and related fields. Her dedication to student learning and her innovative approach to teaching made her a highly respected educator.

As a leader in curriculum development, Professor Nesmith helped strengthen the introductory biology experience through evidence-based teaching practices, including active learning, flipped classroom models, and redesigned assessments that encouraged deeper understanding. Since 1997, she also served as biology laboratory coordinator, where she modernized introductory biology laboratories through hypothesis-driven experiments, statistical analysis, and accessible learning materials. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she adapted laboratory instruction for remote learning, allowing students to continue meaningful scientific exploration during a time of significant disruption.

Professor Nesmith's influence extended beyond the classroom and laboratory. As the biology discipline advisor from 2018 to 2023, she provided guidance and mentorship to students pursuing careers in medicine, research, education, and other life science professions. She also contributed to the university through service on faculty committees, the Faculty Senate, the Commission for Women, departmental committees, and the Darwin Day organizing group.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Judy Mousigian Nesmith, lecturer IV emerita in biological sciences**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2026