

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Debra K. Mattison, LMSW, ACSW, FAOSW, OSW-C, clinical associate professor of social work in the School of Social Work, retired from active faculty status on January 2, 2026.

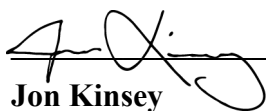
Professor Mattison earned her M.S.W. degree from the University of Michigan in 1981 and joined the U-M faculty as an adjunct lecturer in 1995. She was promoted to adjunct lecturer II in 2005, lecturer II in 2013, clinical assistant professor in 2015, and clinical associate professor in 2020.

Throughout her distinguished career, Professor Mattison advanced clinical social work, promoted teaching excellence, and fostered interprofessional collaboration. She brought deep clinical experience and leadership to curricular development across cancer care, palliative care, integrated primary care, and community practice settings. Her professional interests included oncology, chronic illness, grief and loss, women's health and spirituality in social work. She published widely on medical social work, ethics, resilience, coping with serious illness, and interprofessional education (IPE) and taught and mentored thousands of students.

Her commitment to innovation and excellence was evident in her creative teaching and curricular development. As a core faculty member for the groundbreaking Team-Based Clinical Decision-Making curriculum, she contributed significantly to its development, evaluation, and long-term sustainability. As co-lead for the LIFE (Longitudinal Interprofessional Family-based Experience) program, she designed original curriculum promoting interprofessional learning. Professor Mattison's exemplary career has been recognized through many honors including Provost Teaching Innovation Prizes (2015, 2022), Interprofessional Education Innovation and Excellence Awards (2017, 2019, 2020, 2022) and recognition as a board-certified oncology social worker, and fellow of the Association of Oncology Social Work (2021). She was honored as Social Worker of the Year (1996) by the National Association of Social Workers–Michigan chapter where she served in multiple leadership roles.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Debra K. Mattison, clinical associate professor emerita of social work**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025