The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

William H. Frey, Ph.D., research professor in the Population Studies Center at the Institute for Social Research, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026

Professor Frey earned his M.A. (1971) and Ph.D. (1974) degrees in sociology from Brown University. He joined the Population Studies Center in 1981 as an assistant research scientist, with promotions to research scientist and research professor.

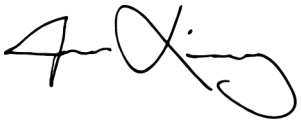
Professor Frey has over 300 publications and is a well-known public scholar whose research informs policy makers and the public about the nation's demographic changes in the areas of urban populations, migration, immigration, race, aging, political demographics, and the U.S. Census. His book, *Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics Are Remaking America* (Brookings Institution Press), now in its third edition, was named a Choice Outstanding Academic title in 2015 by the American Library Association. Professor Frey has been visiting scholar or senior fellow with the Population Reference Bureau, Child Trends and the Brookings Institution.

Professor Frey founded and directed the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) since 1995 to provide undergraduate instructors with resources to incorporate U.S. Census-based quantitative reasoning exercises into their courses. With funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education and several other foundations, SSDAN has served well over 1,000 instructors in more than 500 colleges and universities and formally collaborated with the American Sociological Association and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. In recognition, Professor Frey received the 2019 Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award from the American Sociological Association, and SSDAN was given the 2020 Sociology Classics Award as an Exemplary Online Learning Resource by MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching).

Professor Frey has served as an advisor to the U.S. Census Bureau, on the Committee on Population Statistics for the Population Association of America, as an American Sociological Association representative to the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, and on the Advisory Committee for NextGenPop: Recruiting the Next Generation of Scholars to Population Research.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar for his dedicated service by naming **William Frey, research professor emeritus.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026