

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Juan E. Mestas, Ph.D., chancellor emeritus and professor of foreign languages in the College of Arts and Sciences, at the University of Michigan-Flint, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2015.

Professor Mestas received his B.A. (1965) degree from la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras and his M.A. (1974) and Ph.D. (1985) degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint as chancellor and professor of foreign languages in 1999. He served as chancellor from 1999-2007, was appointed special advisor to the chancellor and provost from 2008-09, and joined the faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages full-time in 2009.

An exceptional scholar, teacher, and leader, Professor Mestas championed academic excellence, student centeredness, and community engagement. He brought greater transparency and accountability to administrative decision-making, developed new approaches to increase enrollment, and addressed long-term structural funding issues. Professor Mestas was actively involved in the creation of the Women's Educational Center, establishment of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and development of additional online course offerings. He played an instrumental leadership role in the development of the campus' first student housing complex that has fostered a greater sense of community. Professor Mestas' scholarly work includes three important books *El pensamiento social de José Martí: ideología y cuestión obrera* (1993), *Centro de gravedad* (2003), and *De monstrous y laberintos* (2007). He authored a number of notable journal articles, poems, short stories, and translations. Professor Mestas taught courses in comparative and general literature, Hispanic language and literary studies, and Spanish language and literature. An unwavering and generous supporter, Professor Mestas has bequest \$2 million to the University of Michigan-Flint to ensure the access, opportunity, and success of future generations of students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for his dedicated service by naming **Juan E. Mestas, chancellor emeritus and professor emeritus of foreign languages**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2015