

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

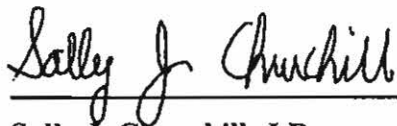
Deborah Keller-Cohen, Ph.D., professor of linguistics and professor of women's studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of education in the School of Education, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2018.

Professor Keller-Cohen received her A.B. (1970) degree from the University of Michigan, her M.A. (1972) degree from the University of Colorado, and her Ph.D. (1974) degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1974, and was promoted to associate professor in 1980, and professor in 1994.

Professor Keller-Cohen made significant contributions to the study of language development, literacy, language and gender, and language and aging. She is known for her work on the literacy of daily life, having explored literacy practices in such sites as a credit union and in the process of redesigning a telephone bill. She also is known for her investigation of the relationship of gender to colonial literacy practices in the United States. Her work on social relations and language use among the "oldest of the old" demonstrated the importance of strong social relationships for the maintenance of linguistic and other cognitive abilities over the course of aging. She played a key role in the teaching of discourse analysis and conversational analysis in the Department of Linguistics. Students routinely praised her careful attention to their work and her unwavering support for their professional advancement. In addition to service to the profession in the form of chairing the Linguistic Society of America's Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics, Professor Keller-Cohen was an elected member of the LSA Executive Committee. She served as the senior associate director at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender and the associate dean for academic programs and initiatives at the Rackham Graduate School. While associate dean, she was a tireless advocate for graduate study in the arts and humanities and received significant funding from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to begin and then expand the Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholar Program, a program aimed at both raising the visibility of graduate study in the humanities and increasing the diversity and inclusiveness of graduate programs in the humanities.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Deborah Keller-Cohen, professor emerita of linguistics, professor emerita of women's studies, and professor emerita of education.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2018