

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Catherine A. Davy, Ph.D., provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of English, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and Arts and professor of women's and gender studies, College Wide Programs, in the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Davy received her B.A. (1971) degree in speech and drama from Clarke College. She received her M.A. (1975) and Ph.D. (1979) degrees both in drama and performance studies from New York University. Before being appointed as provost and professor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2009, Professor Davy held administrative and teaching positions at Bentley University, Adelphi University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of California, Irvine. In her time as provost, Professor Davy led a highly successful reaccreditation effort, implemented a complete revision of the Dearborn campus general education curriculum, created a new College of Health and Human Services, established START, a campus-wide advising office, and launched innovative programs such as the Talent Gateway. In recognition of her work, she was named the recipient of the 2015 Leader of Change Award by the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation in Higher Education and as one of *Crain's Detroit Business'* Notable Women in Education in 2019.

After joining the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty, Professor Davy published her seminal work, *Lady Dicks and Lesbian Brothers: Staging the Unimaginable at the WOW Café Theater* (2010), exploring the history and impact of the WOW Café Theater, a New York City performance space focused on the production of progressive lesbian and feminist art. The book has received wide acclaim. She is also the author of myriad professional publications and conference papers. She gave much of her time to her new community, serving as a member of the Board of Directors for First Step (a women's shelter in Detroit), for Starfish Family Services, and for New Center Community Services. She is currently completing work on a memoir of her time in the academy.

The Regents now salute this dedicated and accomplished administrator, teacher, and scholar for her service to the University of Michigan-Dearborn, by naming **Catherine A. Davy, professor emerita of English and women's and gender studies.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2020