

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

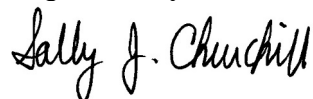
William J. Gehring, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2022.

Professor Gehring received his A.B. degree from Augustana College in 1985 and Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1992. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1994, and was promoted to associate professor in 2002, and professor in 2010.

Professor Gehring is a cognitive neuroscientist who co-discovered the Error-Related Negativity (ERN), a surge of brain electrical activity that occurs when people make errors. The paper reporting this finding is one of the most highly cited articles ever in the flagship journal of the Association for Psychological Science. His seminal research showed that the ERN is exaggerated in adults and children with obsessive-compulsive disorder and is present in children as young as three years old. Recognizing his discoveries, he was named a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science in 2011. More recently his research on higher education used University of Michigan data to identify factors in the curriculum that facilitate or hinder students' success in psychology and STEM fields. He was widely recognized for his undergraduate teaching in Introduction to Cognitive Psychology, where his sense of humor, approachability, and lecture style helped to make the class one of the college's most popular large-enrollment courses. He created a highly rated seminar for first-semester undergraduates, Cognitive Science of Academic Success, on how to use findings from cognitive science to study and learn more effectively. To ensure broad access to the class, he reserved half of the seats for students in the Comprehensive Studies Program. Recognizing his superb teaching, the university awarded him an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship in 2004, and in 2010 the College of LS&A honored him with the John Dewey Teaching Award. Professor Gehring has given much administrative service to his field, to the university, and to his department, including serving on several journal editorial boards, on numerous advisory boards to the provost, and as chair for the Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience area within Psychology.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **William J. Gehring, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of psychology.**

Requested by:



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

December 2022