

**BOARD OF REGENTS****EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
RECOMMENDATION****HONORARY EMERITUS STATUS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE****ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents grant Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service to Ms. Nancy Harbour, J.D., who provided exceptional leadership in her role as faculty member and Program Coordinator for the Paralegal Program. Ms. Harbour joined Eastern in 2004 as a lecturer, was promoted to assistant professor in 2005, promoted again to associate professor in 2009, and promoted again to full professor in 2014. During her time at the University, she provided outstanding leadership on a number of initiatives including establishing the Washtenaw County-EMU Legal Resource Center, successfully renewing EMU's Paralegal Program's accreditation with the American Bar Association, serving as the president of the American Association for Paralegal Education, and establishing the Alice Callum endowed scholarship for students in the Paralegal program.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

According to University policy, retiring employees who have served the University for fewer than 15 years may be granted Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service. Candidates for honorary emeritus status must have a significant number of years of service and a record of meritorious performance in one or more of the following: (a) a substantive record of scholarly achievement commensurate with national or international standards within the specific discipline, (b) a record of outstanding teaching and or educational contributions, (c) clear evidence of service to the University beyond the normal expectations, (d) clear evidence of exceptional institutional leadership, advancement of the University or extraordinary service to students.

Ms. Harbour resigned from Eastern in 2016. In her twelve years of employment at EMU, she demonstrated exemplary service to the students and faculty of the university, and the Washtenaw County Community, as evidenced by her outstanding record of achievements.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



University Executive Officer

10/3/17

Date

## **Emeritus Status Application for Nancy Harbour**

**EMU Years:** 2004-2016

**EMU Status:** Full Professor, Program Coordinator-, ABA-Approved Paralegal Studies Program



### **Service Accomplishments:**

#### **The Washtenaw County-EMU Legal Resource Center (LRC)**

Nancy's most profound service accomplishment started when she opened the doors of the Washtenaw County-EMU Legal Resource Center (LRC) in 2004. The LRC is a cooperative effort between EMU, the county's judges, local attorneys, and the county's administration. It is a 501(c) (3) corporation. This pro bono legal clinic is run exclusively by EMU's paralegal students, under supervision of EMU's paralegal program's attorney faculty members. The students help the Washtenaw County community patrons with civil court forms in the areas of family law, landlord-tenant, probate and small claims matters. The LRC logo was designed by a program graduate who worked at the LRC.

The LRC is *the only* university program of its kind in the country. The LRC was one of EMU's programs specifically cited by The Carnegie Foundation when EMU received its recent re-designation for Exceptional Community Engagement. Nancy continually interfaced with the judges and community lawyers to grow the LRC.

Under Nancy's supervision and leadership, the LRC expanded and grew. To date, the EMU LRC students have helped well over 10,000 community members, primarily with family law court forms and procedures. Among Nancy's service accomplishments within the community, on behalf of EMU and the LRC, are:

- Opening the LRC's doors;
- Organizing and doing the PR to promote the clinic in the community, e.g., speaking at church events and government meetings;
- Successfully writing applications for small annual grants from the County's Board of Commissioners to help defray LRC operational costs;
- Regularly meeting with the county's circuit court judges to explain the LRC operations;
- Meeting with county planners to design permanent office space in the courthouse for the LRC.
- Speaking to national paralegal educators about the LRC model;
- Regularly meeting with community lawyers to explain the LRC; and
- Organizing an annual LRC fundraiser, with the help of The EMU Foundation.

*The educational impact on our paralegal students and the community has been incredible, Harbour noted.*

## **The Paralegal Program's Alice Callum Scholarship**

- Nancy coordinated and ran the fund raising effort, with the EMU Foundation, to establish the *first endowed scholarship* for the paralegal program. She raised most of the funds herself.

## **New Articulation Agreement with Washtenaw Community College**

- Nancy helped to design and established a brand new “2+2” Articulation Agreement with WCC;
- She worked with WCC faculty and actually helped to write the WCC's curriculum for their new paralegal Associates Degree, which avoids course duplication, a first. The agreement allows the WCC students a direct transfer into EMU's Paralegal Studies Program, once their two-year degree is completed.

## **Other Contributions that publicized EMU's Paralegal Studies Program**

- Nancy successfully renewed EMU's Paralegal Program's approval (accreditation) status with the American Bar Association in 2007 and 2014.
- Nancy served as the 2010 President of the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE), the exclusive national organization for paralegal educators. She was the first, and so far only, president from Michigan.