

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Kenneth G. Powell, Sc.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of aerospace engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

Professor Powell received S.B. degrees in mathematics and aeronautics & astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1982. He received a S.M. in 1984 and Sc.D. in 1987, both in aeronautics & astronautics from MIT. He joined the faculty at University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1993, and professor in 2000.

His research was in scientific computing for aerodynamics and plasmadynamics. He co-founded the W.M. Keck Foundation Computational Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (1993, with Roe and Van Leer), the Center for Space Environment Modeling (2001, with Clauer, Gombosi, and Stout), and the Center for Radiative Shock Hydrodynamics (2007, with Drake, Holloway, and Stout). While it led to neither research funding nor publications, he is equally proud of co-founding the University of Michigan Ballroom Dance club (1990, with Fath, Krummel, Levy, Mandell, and McKittrick), where he taught hundreds of faculty, students and staff the foxtrot, swing, quickstep, and other dances. He was recognized as an excellent teacher, being named the Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Professor three times (1988, 1999, and 2005), and a Thurnau Professor in 2002. With 15 co-authors from the U.S. and Europe, he contributed to Multimedia Fluid Mechanics, a teaching tool in wide use throughout engineering. He served the university in student services, research computing, and diversity/equity/inclusion roles. His service roles included: serving as undergraduate program advisor for aerospace engineering; establishing the first campus-wide research computing cluster (2011, with Atkins, Caird, and Killey); serving as graduate chair of the Scientific Computing Ph.D. program; serving as a member of STRIDE, serving as the inaugural DEI liaison for aerospace engineering; and serving as faculty ombuds for the College of Engineering.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Kenneth G. Powell, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of aerospace engineering.**

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2023**