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The MSU Resource Center For Persons With Disabilities Presents

The 2015 Newsletter

SHAMROCK 5K ~ RUN, WALK, ROLL

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Reflecting on the accomplishments of 2015, there is much to celebrate and we are thankful for you and the many friends who aid our pursuit of excellence. MSU leadership in accessibility extends from the 1934 Tower Guard honor organization’s reading for blind students, to the post-polio inclusion of people with mobility challenges, welcoming deaf students to the classroom, and now fully connecting a new generation of people with various hidden disabilities from learning disabilities to chronic health, mental health, and autism spectrum disorders. Spartan leadership is thriving through signature programs and services, ambitious students, determined staff, support from MSU management, and a growing network of alumni and friends who extend our reach and quality. The RCPD is engaging the new Empowering Extraordinary campaign with fantastic features. The Alex Powell Great State race ran the winning MSU game ball from East Lansing to Ann Arbor garnering national press while also serving as a vital fund raiser. We welcome new programming including the Careers Collaborative sponsored by alumni Mike and Kathy Bosco, a new coaching program aiding student growth courtesy of the Tompkins family, and innovative work using technology to aid campus navigation supported by Greg Fowler. We’ve highlighted ongoing efforts of the past year in the following pages and seek your continued partnership into 2016.
Stern Tutoring and Alternative Techniques for Education

- This endowment provides operational needs for the STATE program including tutoring and mentoring for 15 students as well as seminars for faculty.
- Freshman students who benefit from this program can begin their time at MSU with strong study skills and earn a higher GPA in their first semester.

Autism Initiatives

- Support from the Baldwin Foundation, private gifts, and institutional resources are helping RCPD operate the Building Opportunities for Network and Discovery (BOND) program.
- This program empowers students to build capacity and partnership in areas they find most challenging because of Autism Spectrum Disorder dynamics.

MSU/MRS Careers Collaborative

- A new gift from Alumni Mike and Kathy Bosco, matching state and federal funds, and partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services has accelerated unique RCPD career partnerships.
- This program empowers career transition opportunities and fortifies long-term student achievement.
- Students gain a full-time, on-campus vocational rehabilitation counselor and specialized guidance with new synergies among several campus departments intent on strong student outcomes.

Carlson Accessible Media Program

- CAMP allows MSU to be a leader in accessible textbook and academic materials production by providing book supplies and equipment.
- LiveScribe note-taking tools were purchased for demonstration and in-class use by students who struggle to write rapidly.
- A talking atlas app for accessible geographic exploration was acquired for student use.
MICHAEL J. HUDSON EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES ENDOWMENT

• This endowment is leading expansion of accessibility at the Demmer Shooting Sports facility with a high-tech target siting system.
• The purchase of an accessible hand cycle and sponsorship of the Council of Students with Disabilities Adaptive Sports Day furthered sports accessibility on campus.
• Leadership skills were showcased through student sponsorship to an international saxophone competition and a service learning experience in therapeutic riding.
• Tower Guard honor students benefitted from team-building and service recognition events.

Tower Guard 2015-2016

• Each Tower Guard member partners with RCPD students to complete 120 volunteer hours.
• Students translate books to Braille, read exams, and serve as orientation guides.
• The group created a float for the Homecoming Parade highlighting former RCPD student and Tower Guard member, Aaron Scheidies. This world-record setting Triathlete is a 2016 Rio, Brazil Paralympic Games hopeful.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT FUND

• A student was employed as a Public Relations Coordinator who chronicled RCPD activities, student success stories and overall leadership.
• A prototype MSU Guide app is being developed which allows students to use an iPhone to geo-locate surroundings across campus.
• Career development activities and the annual awards reception were supported by this fund.
The Powell family united with the RCPD after Alex’s aggressive cancer was discovered. Working together made Alex’s arrival at MSU a reality, and allowed him to fully participate in the Spartan experience.

Alex’s legacy lives on through Alex’s Great State Race, a 64-mile race between Michigan State and the University of Michigan that financially strengthens and brings awareness to the programs that supported Alex.

This new endowment will enhance the Spartan experience through outreach and specialized assistance and services to students and families facing challenges associated with difficult disability dynamics.

COACHING PILOT PROGRAM

- Coaching is a comprehensive and creative partnership for developing student self awareness and goal setting with consistent accountability and feedback.
- Coaching involves thought-provoking questions and a holistic process in service of enhancing both what students do (actions) and who they are (characteristics).
- Students explore topics such as disability acceptance and awareness, professional identity development, higher-level academic skills, life skills management, and more.

HAROLD AND PHYLLIS WOCHHOLZ ENDOWMENT

- Operation of the 5th annual Project Venture Program enabled 15 high-school students with significant disabilities to try campus life during a 3 day, 2 night Spartan experience.
- Community visibility was enhanced through multiple events ranging from the 25th anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act to high school career night visits.
The 2015 Awards Reception: 29 scholars received a total of $76,500

ANITA GIAMPALMI CYSTIC FIBROSIS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship provided one student a scholarship of $4,700 in recognition of his student achievements in an educational program at MSU. This award recognizes a student with cystic fibrosis in honor of Elementary Education Alumna, Anita Giampalmi.

DECKER-MUNS FRIENDSHIP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Seven graduate students were awarded scholarships totaling $20,000. This scholarship recognizes ability and opportunity in students achieving higher education and reflects the ideals of Robert Decker and Benjamin Muns.

SHAWN M. KOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Two students each received $1,000 scholarships from this endowment as they share Shawn's intellectual curiosity, leadership skills, and ability to positively impact the world. The Memorial Scholarship continues to preserve Shawn's embodiment of Spartan leadership.
SAMARITAN SCHOLARS ENDOWMENT

The very first scholarship at Michigan State offered to students with disabilities was the Samaritan Scholar Award established by alumni Jim and Judy DeLapa. In its 12th year, this scholarship provided educational support totaling $17,500 to 5 scholars.

VICTOR TROUBALOUS SCHOLARSHIP

The first recipients of the Victor Troubalous Scholarships were named at the 2015 Awards and Appreciation Reception. Two scholars experiencing learning disabilities and thriving in the STATE program received scholarships totaling $1,800.

KATRINA TAGGET FELLOWSHIP

One high-achieving scholar earned a $4,000 fellowship to mentor students with similar disabilities. This scholarship recipient exemplified the honors, awards, and accolades Katrina earned as a Spartan before she passed away in 2008.

KINDZIERSKI SCHOLARSHIP

The Kindzierski Scholarship is intent on helping students on the Autism Spectrum grow and persist at MSU, and is awarded in partnership with the BOND program. The first Kindzierski Scholarship will be named in 2016.

RSVP TODAY FOR THE 2016 AWARDS & APPRECIATION RECEPTION!
APRIL 22, 2016 - 1:00PM
MSU UNION BALLROOM
THE RCPD VISION

Together, we create a welcoming environment, fortify capacity and compassionately challenge people to redefine disability. We grow ambition into personal and professional success by fostering self-advocacy, connected knowledge, innovative technology and community partnerships.

Thank you for your part in this year’s success!

Visit the RCPD website to see how we are maximizing ability and opportunity!

www.rcpd.msu.edu

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MSU RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES