MSU began addressing architectural barrier removal for persons with physical disabilities in the 1960’s in response to organized disability movements. Federal and state regulations later accelerated this work. Throughout the 1970’s, continuing advocacy from the office led to the addition of over 1,000 new curb cuts in campus pathways and the construction of many ramps.

MSU is a national leader in accessible pedestrian intersections through the installation of audible crosswalk indicators across campus, earning MSU a daVinci Award in the Personal Mobility category. Partnership with campus Traffic Engineer Dr. Tom Maleck dramatically increased pedestrian safety through countless innovations.

We developed a smartphone guide application empowering independent campus navigation. Designed for the unique needs of those with visual and navigational challenges, the app surpassed expectations by becoming a campus-wide asset helping thousands of campus newcomers.

RCPD, in partnership with MSU Residence & Hospitality Services and MSU Infrastructure Planning & Facilities, designed and launched an iOS app called Munch. Munch helps students and employees find food and menus across campus, make informed decisions about what to eat based on dietary concerns, and connect with others.

Michigan State University is a pioneering partner with GoodMaps creating accessible indoor mapping at MSU. GoodMaps uses 3D laser scanning, image recognition, and positioning technology to create maps for indoor navigation. This provides turn-by-turn directions when searching for a specific location within a building. MSU is the first university in the world to deploy GoodMaps, aiding our work in STEM accessibility.

Born out of pandemic challenges, the Braille Technology Advantage is the first program of its kind providing a refreshable Braille display to each incoming Braille user. The program facilitates timely production of critical reading materials while encouraging students to grow in their technological sophistication which eliminates barriers and provides expanded career and life opportunities. We thank the Carlson Family, the Emerging Opportunities Endowment, and the Gilbert Family for helping build this program.
Funded by Mickey and Debbie Stern, the Stern Tutoring and Alternative Techniques for Education (STATE) program provides innovative assistance for students with learning disabilities. Students gain community and targeted insights through weekly seminar, tutoring, mentoring, and meetings to build skills in circumventing challenges associated with learning disabilities.

The Building Opportunities for Networking and Development (BOND) program began with gifts from Julie Wolf of Grand Rapids and the Baldwin Foundation and is helped today by the Autism Initiatives Endowment created by the Kindzierski Family. The partnership extends programming to students on the Autism Spectrum through social outings, peer mentoring, and skill development workshops.

The Careers Collaborative program began with gifts from Michael and Kathy Bosco and corresponding matching state and federal funds. This brought Michigan Rehabilitation Services to campus offering tailored career transition services. The collaborative is significant as a statewide and national model project connecting multiple entities.

RCPD launched the PEER Program, promoting education and emotional resilience, as a workshop developing student resiliency skills and building community. This program empowers students to learn about mental health, develop positive coping skills, and maneuver challenges.

Supported by the Edith Squires Endowment, RCPD created a course for first-year students to provide a strong start at MSU. This course advances occupational, nutritional, and emotional wellness.