

Disability HISTORY AT MIZZOU



1923

One of the first student organizations for students with disabilities in the United States—the Disabled American Veterans of the World War—was founded at Mizzou.



1974

Mizzou dedicated the Rusk Rehabilitation Center as a tribute to Dr. Howard A. Rusk, a Mizzou Alumnus, Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and the father of modern rehabilitative medicine. Today, the Rusk Rehabilitation Center continues Dr. Rusk's work, providing the highest quality of care for patients experiencing spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, strokes, and amputations.



1986

Darren Gabbert and Darola Hockley established the **Adaptive Computing Technology Center**, one of the first adaptive technology centers in the country, to help ensure access to adaptive technology for people with disabilities at Mizzou.



1991

The Great Plains ADA Center was established at Mizzou. The center is now housed within the Department of Architectural Studies, and continues to provide education and technical assistance on the ADA and related laws, including hosting and planning the annual National ADA Symposium.



2005

Mizzou's Wheelchair Basketball team played its first season as a member of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. Funding for the program was secured by former Missouri Senator Chuck Graham, who had been a collegiate wheelchair basketball athlete. The team, led by U.S. Paralympic coach Ron Lykins, now consistently ranks among the best teams nationally.



The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders was established at Mizzou. This center is now a national leader in research, clinical service delivery, education, and public policy.

Early 1960s



Decades before federal law required making facilities accessible, Mizzou became one of the first campuses in the nation to add accessibility features. As one of only three accessible universities in the Midwest at the time, Mizzou was the designated education center for students with disabilities from Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

1976



Mizzou established its first office to provide accommodations for students with disabilities. This office, now the **Disability Center**, supports over 1300 students with disabilities each year, facilitating access and equal opportunity, promoting disability inclusion, student self-determination, and principles of universal design in teaching, programs, services, and physical facilities.

Early 1990s



Mizzou implemented 10 million dollars' worth of accessibility upgrades on campus following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

1993



Mizzou hired its first ADA Coordinator, Lee Henson. Lee served the University as ADA Coordinator for 20 years, and the Access Mizzou Awards are awarded each year in his memory. The **Office of Accessibility and ADA** continues his work, providing accommodations for faculty and staff, educating the campus on disability and the ADA, and working to improve accessibility on campus.

2010



Mizzou's first Annual Celebrate Ability Week was held to promote disability awareness and culture and highlight the valuable contributions of persons with disabilities at Mizzou. This celebration continues each October.

Present



Mizzou remains a leader in disability inclusion and research and is a mecca for persons with disabilities from across Missouri and the country.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF *Disability* INCLUSION AT MIZZOU



University of Missouri

Office of Accessibility and ADA, Disability Center and Adaptive Computing Technology Center