



### NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US



At the RCU Library, we believe in inclusive librarianship. Our goal is to create an environment that is welcoming, supportive, and accessible to individuals from diverse backgrounds. We actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within our library's services, resources, and spaces. We strive to address historical inequities and challenge oppressive systems. We value different ways of knowing and work tirelessly to eliminate barriers to equitable services and scholarship. Join us in our mission to create a more inclusive and equitable world. We are on a transformative journey towards disability inclusion as we break barriers and walk the talk.

### Building a Legacy through Inclusivity



RCU departments and students convene for the commencement of the program

Reformed Church University, Library department in collaboration with the Inclusivity department organized a successful event on March 14, 2024, titled "RCU and the Road to Disability Inclusion." The event which was punctuated with a lecture and sporting activities was a resounding success. It emphasized the significance of inclusivity and accessibility for people with disabilities, highlighting the

challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, the importance of inclusion practices, and RCU's pivotal role in promoting disability inclusion. Strategies for creating a more inclusive environment and empowering individuals with disabilities to participate in social, academic, and professional settings were proffered.

### Championing Accessibility: Building a More Inclusive Society

RCU has demonstrated a strong commitment to disability inclusion by implementing various initiatives that support students with disabilities. To support the University niche communicated in its vision and mission, the University recognizes the importance of creating an inclusive environment where all students have equal opportunities to succeed academically and socially.



Registrar Mrs. M. M. Mapanga addressing the RCU community

### RCU Roadmap to Inclusion: Strategies for Inclusive Practices

One of the aspects of RCU's approach to disability inclusion is the provision of accessibility services like accessible facilities, dormitories for people with disabilities, assistive technologies, extended exam time, and other accommodations based on individual needs. By providing these services, RCU aims to ensure that students with disabilities can fully participate in academic activities while at the same time thriving to

raise awareness and sensitize the university community about disability issues.



V. C. Prof. E. Dumbu (standing) giving his speech, (sitting on his right) are P. V. C. Prof. J. Makaye, Dr. A. Mavugara, Mr. K. Rugare, and Mr. C. Kufa).

### Walking the Talk & Breaking Barriers: The Journey Towards Disability Inclusion

Through the power of storytelling, we celebrate the courage and resilience of individuals who are paving the way toward a more inclusive society. Disability inclusion is not just a matter of words but of tangible actions. It is vital to recognize the difference between disability and impairments, where society's barriers can hinder those with impairments from participating fully. Therefore, we must strive to eliminate such barriers so that those with impairments can live their lives to the optimum without facing any disabilities.



Mr. E. Ndlovu addressing the RCU community on walking the talk



### From Awareness to Action: Transforming Attitudes Towards Disability

Attendees of the lecture were further treated to a demonstration of inclusion through the paralympic games, which experience was exciting, enjoyable, informative, and indeed transformative.



100-meter inclusive race.

### Goal-Ball

Goal-ball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes with vision impairment. Participants competed in teams of three, throwing a ball that had bells embedded inside of it into the opponents' goal. The rules indicated that the ball is thrown by hand and never kicked. Able-bodied athletes are also blindfolded when playing this sport. Watching the goal ball was an immersive and thrilling experience for everyone, as the sounds of players moving, the ball rolling, and the bells inside the goal ball ringing created a dynamic and engaging atmosphere that captivated both visually impaired and sighted spectators alike.



RCU students and staff playing goal ball



Teams getting ready for a typing competition. You will be amazed at the outcome of typing while you are blindfolded.

*"People with disabilities encounter numerous challenges that prevent them from fully and effectively participating in society. This also applies to academics with impairments, who face barriers that hinder their academic success. Negative attitudes, lack of awareness in society, and the absence of assistive devices are some of the obstacles standing in their way"*

Dr. N. Mudzingwa  
Director of Inclusivity

### Other news



RCU F.C. is a football team for Reformed Church University staff members, inclusive of impaired personnel who happen to be an outstanding footballer. The team's unique composition is their strength, and they see their entry into a league as a platform to market the university, showcase their talents, work as a team, and overcome challenges together. The impaired personnel's exceptional football skills give the team a competitive edge in matches. By embracing diversity, maximizing individual

strengths, and working together, the team aims to conquer & make a positive impact in their league endeavors. Join RCU F.C. on their journey to football glory, where every player matters, and every skill counts.

### DRAWING THE CURTAINS CLOSER...

*Breaking barriers and walking the talk on disability inclusion involves embracing the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities, understanding their unique challenges, and actively working towards creating a more accessible and accommodating environment for all. We encourage organizations and communities to listen and learn from these lived experiences, to truly embody the principles of diversity and inclusivity, paving the way for a more equitable future for everyone.*

### Editor's Corner

The Reformed Church University Library newsletter aims to provide valuable information, updates, and resources to the members of the RCU community. It is published monthly, distributed in print format within the university premises, and digitally through email or the library's website for easy access by all members, offering a comprehensive overview of the library's events, upcoming events, and other relevant content.

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