# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Community Celebration Williams High School Thursday, January 21, 2016

## "Making Our Mark"

Narrated by:

Williams High School Students Morgan Alexander Blake Bathman Gabriela Evans Jacqueline Mazariegos Sanya Srivastava

Lisa Amen David Blackman Anakuh Hunck Mikaela Pratt Danielle Trujillo

Luke Baldwin Jesenia Castro Skye Maulsby Jaydn Sims

Plano ISD Teachers of the Year Lilli Wisler, Elementary Teacher of the Year Jennifer Denton, Secondary Teacher of the Year

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian T. Binggeli

#### Plano ISD Teachers of the Year (video voice overs)

**Lilli** Welcome to Plano ISD's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute event. Tonight we are honoring the mark that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., made on the world, as well as the mark that our community's leaders, educators and students, past and present, have made...and will make...on the vibrant and thriving community we know Plano to be today.

**Jennifer** In a popular quote, author and poet Ray Bradbury recounted advice he once received from his grandfather. In summary, he said, "Everyone must leave something behind...something your hand touched. And when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there. It doesn't matter what you do so long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away."

**Lilli** One of the first to make an indelible mark on the history of Plano was McBain Jameson, who saw potential in a vast prairie land and put down roots to become the area's first settler in 1840. He was followed by more settlers including some of Plano's most prominent families who began to arrive and plant seeds of their own, establishing large farms.

**Jennifer** The need for education became increasingly important as the population grew. In the 1850s, Clay Thomas, the first known teacher in Plano, was said to be chosen for his knowledge of Greek and Latin. He made his mark by tending the crop of children now being raised in this small, rural farming community.

**Lillie** The first public school, founded in 1870, signified the roots of a city beginning to take hold. The city was officially incorporated in June 1873; a school district was formed in 1891, which in 1899 became Plano Independent School District.

**Jennifer** Buildings and business flourished in the 1880s. After a devastating fire in 1885, wooden structures were replaced with modern brick buildings and a new look of prosperity began to take place.

**Lillie** By 1900, Plano's first football team had been organized by Ernest Peoples, who also served as the captain.

**Jennifer** Throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Plano relied on surrounding farms and ranches for its livelihood, but in the early 1900s the city began making its first steps toward urbanization.

**Lillie** By the 1960s, the growth of both Dallas to the south and the success of several large high-technology firms began to influence the local economy, and school administrators and city planners began making preparations for the growth they believed was inevitable as Plano evolved from its rural, Blackland Prairie roots to what would later become one of the fastest growing cities in Texas and the US.

**Jennifer** In 1964, Plano began to make significant social strides as well. That year Plano ISD made the decision to begin integrating the schools. The first to make the move toward desegregation was Plano High School. The following year, the students on the Wildcat football team would make their mark by bringing home not just a victory on the field, but one of great social significance that many may not have realized at the time.

#### Williams High School Student Narrators (live throughout MLK Tribute program)

**1964** was a momentous year for civil rights as Congress passed the Twenty-fourth Amendment and Texas's own Lyndon B. Johnson unveiled his plan for the Great Society. That same year, the Plano school district integrated, setting an example for the state and nation. The tight knit community banded together through a language fluent to everyone football. The Wildcats had few winning seasons and no state titles at that time, but with hard work and a trailblazing spirit, coaches Tom Gray and John Clark led the integrated team all the way to a state championship victory in 1965.

**1970** Plano population is 17,872, an increase of 384% since 1960 and Wilson Middle School opens

**1971** Barron, Forman and Shepard Elementary Schools open and the Plano Wildcats win the state championship again

**1972** City and school district officials jointly hire a consultant to develop a master plan locating existing schools and park facilities and Davis Elementary School opens

**1973** Christy Elementary School opens and Plano celebrates its 100-year birthday

1974 Haggard Middle School and Weatherford Elementary School open

**1975** Hughston and Jackson Elementary Schools, Williams High School and Plano Senior High School open

**1976** Plano ISD enrollment tops 17,000 and opens Armstrong Middle School and Vines High School

1977 Clark Field and Saigling Elementary School open

**1978** The Plano population reaches 66,150; Carpenter Middle School and Harrington, Thomas and Wells Elementary Schools open.

**1979** The total campus count for Plano ISD includes 17 elementary schools, five middle schools and three high schools with the opening of Clark High School, the city has won 23 industrial projects and more than 100 businesses valued at \$9.3 million make Plano their home.

**1980** Plano population reaches 72,331, an increase of 304% since 1970; Plano ISD opens Schimelpfenig Middle School and enrollment reaches 22,389

**1981** Plano population is 76,400, Collin Creek Mall opens its doors and Plano ISD opens Dooley Elementary School and Plano East Senior High School

**1983** Collin County voters approve a \$59.6 million bond program for roads, bridges and the county's open space program and youth park

1984 Carlisle and Huffman Elementary Schools and Shepton High School open

**1985** Announcement made by Plano ISD about plans for a third senior high school to serve students on the far west side; voters approved two bond packages totaling \$220 million

1911 Service comes to Plano; EDS and Frito-Lay move into their new facilities

**1987** Hendrick Middle School and Mathews Elementary School open and the former Douglas School becomes the Douglas Community Center

**1988** Brinker Elementary School opens and the total number of schools in Plano is 36, serving more than 28,000 students by the end of the decade.

**1989** Plano receives its first designation as Tree City U.S.A. by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Collin County Community College Spring Creek campus opens

**1990** Plano population is 128,713, a 78% increase since 1980; the city opened Plano Center and Plano ISD opened Daffron and Hedgcoxe Elementary Schools

**1991** Dr. James Surratt is selected as Plano ISD's new superintendent and construction begins on Dallas North Tollway extension into Plano

**1992** Mitchell and Rasor Elementary Schools open; city population is 142,000; EDS moves into its Legacy corporate headquarters

1993 JCPenny moves into its corporate headquarters and Bethany Elementary School opens

**1994** Plano population is 160,000 and Plano ISD moves its main administrative offices from the Cox High School in downtown Plano; Robinson Middle School opens and the city earns the title of "All American City" from the National Civic League

**1995** Dr. Douglas Otto is hired as Plano ISD's superintendent; Gulledge, Haggar and Miller Elementary Schools and Guinn Special Program Center open

**1996** Plano issues more residential building permits than in any other year, wins the National recycling Excellence Gold Award and Plano Parks and Recreation department receives the National Arbor Day Foundation's designation as a Tree City USA and the Texas Recreation and Parks Society's Texas Gold Medal Award; Barksdale and Skaggs Elementary Schools and Jasper High School open.

**1997** Plano's population passes the 200,000 mark and Haun Elementary and the SMU in Legacy campus open

**1998** Beverly and Hightower Elementary Schools, Frankford and Renner Middle Schools open and Dr Pepper moves into its national headquarters

**1999** Centennial Elementary School, Rice Middle School and Plano West Senior High School open and a new transportation corridor opens on Plano's southernmost border, the George W. Bush Turnpike **2000** The population is 222,030, a 72% increase since 1990 and Beal Bank moves its headquarters to Plano; Stinson and Wyatt Elementary Schools open

**2001** The Shops at Willow Bend opens, Intuit Inc. moves into its Legacy offices, Ericsson opens its \$115 million campus style headquarters in Legacy and Legacy Bank opens its new headquarters

**2002** Barron, Beaty and Pearson Early Childhood Schools open; Andrews, Boggess and Hickey Elementary Schools open; Another catalyst for west Plano growth, the Legacy Town Center, opens

2003 Murphy Middle School and Kimbrough Stadium open

**2004** Bird Special Programs Center opens; *Money Magazine* names Plano the #1 hottest city in the West for cities with a population over 100,000 and the Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano opens for business

2005 Hunt and McCall Elementary Schools open

2006 Plano reaches 250,000 residents

2007 Schell Elementary School opens

2008 Meadows Elementary School is rebuilt and Children's Medical Center Legacy opens

**2009** Cigna opens its regional headquarters in Plano and two more schools open: Isaacs Early Childhood School and a Sigler Elementary (replacement) School

**2010** Plano population reaches an all-time high of 269,776 and Plano ISD opens Otto Middle School; Forbes.com listed Plano as America's Safest City

**2011** Mendenhall Elementary School is replaced with a new building and McMillen High School opened; The city of Plano is once again ranked the Safest City in the country by *Forbes Magazine*. It is named the "Best Family-friendly City" by *Dallas Child* Magazine

**2012** *Newsweek* names Plano, Plano East and Plano West senior high schools among the nation's best high schools

2013 Plano ISD Academy High School opens

**2015** A massive ground breaking takes place as Toyota North America, Liberty Mutual and FedEx begin their new corporate and regional headquarters in the new Legacy West; Plano ISD names its 14th superintendent of schools, Dr. Brian Binggeli

### Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian T. Binggeli (video voice over)

Understanding our past is the key to building our future. The influence of great national leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pioneering local leaders like E.A. Sigler, Tom Muehlenbeck and Dr. H. Wayne Hendrick have helped shape the vibrant and diverse city we all know today. The mark they left on this community has transformed this once sleepy farming town into a vast network of neighborhoods, schools and shopping centers as well as a premiere location for international businesses.

270,000 residents now call this 72-square-mile piece of land home, creating a rich melting pot of culture. With one in four Plano residents being born outside of the United States, this has truly become an international community. More than 85 languages are spoken by Plano ISD students alone.

One-room school houses have transformed into 72 schools that hold 55,000 students and 6,600 employees who are all making their mark in the classroom and within the community. Students are building their lives on the foundation laid by those before us by embracing collaboration and immersing themselves in the global society.

Plano has blossomed into a world-class business center with corporations located in all of the city's major corridors. The current boom in business relocation to this community means corporate centers are being filled with emerging industries and the development of innovative products and services.

The Plano of today looks much different from the Plano of 50 years ago and even the Plano of 10 years ago, but the spirit and vision still harkens to those who first settled this community almost 200 years ago. The Plano of tomorrow will continue to build on the shared vision of great leaders, past and present, reflecting a diverse and thriving community created through innovation, education, creativity and embracing opportunities for change.

**Jennifer Denton:** From a community of farmers and small town merchants to a thriving metropolis, Plano has definitely come a long way. Setting the bar of excellence with the first state championship to a leader in education, business and lifestyle for the nation, our city is a diverse place that celebrates its differences. Martin Luther King, Jr. set the course for a nation divided to come together. We assemble here to honor the mission he set before us. His challenge to us is to accept one another as people. To forget about the exterior differences and to realize that we are one nation, one people, one world. We are the dream magnified and we have a responsibility to teach our children of his legacy.

Lilli Wisler: Leave this place tonight with a sense of how far we've come, a song in your heart, the words of our children and a calling to make a difference on the future. Your mission is to Make YOUR Mark on Plano and beyond. Take action and shape your community to be the best place anyone can live. As we part, we leave you with the words of former Skaggs Elementary School student Michael Cao and the music of Plano Senior High School graduate and TCU music education major, Tate Keen accompanied by his sister, Plano Senior graduate Rachel Franklin with "Song of Freedom."