



Inspiring Knowledge, Opportunity and Power for 50 years

Description

The video begins with an arc split screen. On the left, there are varying images that portrays life at the Learning Center, the Marie Philip School, Walden School, and other programs that falls under the umbrella of the Learning Center's organization.

On the right part of the split screen, there is the TLC Logo; but instead of the usual colors, it is in gold with a gradient effect. Right below there is a timer that begins at "00:05:00", and at the bottom of the screen it reads "the program begins at 7:00 PM EST" in all capital letters and white font.

In the final thirty seconds of the video, there is a countdown that begins with varying faculty and students signing the number that displays on the right side of the screen in the count-down. When the countdown ends, there is an explosion effect with confetti, and the whole screen shows the TLC logo.

It reads "Celebrating 50 Years, The Learning Center for the Deaf" in gold and all capital writing.

Welcome by Emcee's Matthew Kohashi and Melissa Yingst

Description (5:09)

The screen fades into a split video with two people. The woman, on the left side of the split-screen, is sitting in front of a white wall with a picture behind her. She has dark hair, a dark top, and teal earrings. On the right side of the split screen is a man, also wearing dark clothing. In the upper right corner of the split screen, there is a picture of TLC's entrance with the sign post.

The backdrop behind the split screen shows a portion of the White House. Above the split screen, it reads "Celebrating 50 years" in gold font.

Matthew and Melissa Together:

Hiiiiii!! Hi Everyone!!

Heellllloo!!



Matthew: Hello Everyone!! Thank you for joining us for The Learning Center for the Deaf's 50th anniversary! From our founding in 1970, here we are!

Melissa: Wow!

Matthew: Wow! It is hard to believe!

My name is Matthew Kohashi and it is my great honor to welcome Melissa Yingst, from Melmira who is here to help us celebrate 50 years!

Melissa: Oh thank you Matthew. It is a true honor to be here this evening. Really it is. I have heard countless positive things about The Learning Center. From students to staff. There's just this sense of heartfelt loyalty to the Learning Center.

I know we're here virtually, but that just means I'll have to come for a visit some day. ...and I will...

Matthew: That is for sure...

Melissa: I promise! I'm very excited to be here this evening ...again ...thank you!

Matthew: You know I think back to one of our past galas, watching the emcee,

Melissa: Uh-huh....

Matthew: Oscar Ocuto....who was on stage and thinking to myself...no way would I ever do that...

Melissa: ...and look at you now...

Matthew: and before I knew it, here we are! The important thing is of course, I have a great partner here with me!

Melissa: Yes... yes We got this. We do.....we're in it together ...we got it!

Matthew: Yes, we do! And with that, I think we are ready to kick things off...with....

Melissa:

Yes! We'll begin with V V.... are you familiar with V V?



Matthew:

Hmm...Visual Vernacular....tell me more, who will be performing??

Melissa:

How can I best describe V V?... Well I'll begin with this individual ...One of the OG's when it comes to V V - Visual Vernacular performances....their videos are truly captivating. The whole concept is a sensory spectacle. I mean it really draws you in . We have of course none other than Justin Perez! How exciting!...

Matthew: Well, let's let him take it away!

Justin Perez Performance Part 1

Description (7:23)

The screen transitions to show a new person standing in front of a blue backdrop. On the bottom left corner, there is a pop-up displaying the man's name as "Justin Perez, Visual Vernacular" with the name displayed in white and "Visual Vernacular" displayed in gold. All writing is in capital letters. Justin performs dramatic storytelling in ASL.

(10:24) The screen transitions back to showing Melissa Yingst and Matthew Kohashi in the split screen again. There is gold writing above the split screen reading "#WeAreTLC"

Melissa:

Wow....right????

Matthew:

Wow, the best!

Melissa:

I'm not sure if the viewers noticed, however, there was not a spoken English interpretation available. Truly, the whole point of Visual Vernacular. You would shift the entire essence and intent of the performance. It truly is intended to draw you in visually - solely visually.



Matthew:

It just captures your imagination!

Melissa:

Yes!

Matthew:

Well, shifting gears, it is now my pleasure to introduce our next guests, Governor Charlie Baker and Senator Karen Spilka who would like to join us to say a few words.

Congratulations on 50 years - Governor Charlie Baker and Senate President Karen Spilka

Description (11:08)

The screen transitions to show Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker in his office, with his name displayed on the bottom left corner. There is a smaller split screen to his right that shows an interpreter translating to American Sign Language.

Gov Baker's Script:

Hey Everybody, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker here. I want to start by saying Happy 50th Birthday!

You know, it takes a very special organization, but most of all, a very special group of people who are a part of a very special organization, To find a way to make it work for 50 years.

But, here we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of TLC, The Learning Center for the Deaf, here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

I also want to give a big shout out to Warren Schwab, who obviously has a lot to do with why we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of this organization.

For many decades, he and the folks at TLC provided Massachusetts with yet another outstanding educational institution, world renowned in many respects, for treating kids and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing.



I think in some respects, we've benefited from your work as well. As you may know, one of the things we've done over the course of the past four years is taking advantage of some of the folks who do signing as part of your organization, to make sure that anybody who listens in one of our press conferences, who can't hear or is hard of hearing, has the opportunity to see one of your signers standing side-by-side with me or with the Lieutenant Governor or whoever else might be there.

Whether we're dealing with COVID or snowstorms or who knows what, Everybody has a chance, in whatever language works for them, to have an opportunity to pick up on what's going on and to know what we're up to and what they need to do to stay safe.

I just want to say, on behalf of the people of Massachusetts, thank you! We are enormously grateful for the work that TLC and its team does every single day and every single year, on behalf of the communities that you serve.

But, I also want to say congratulations. 50 years, that's a really long time. It demonstrates your ability to adapt and adjust to the constant changes that come with being a key player in educating this particular community For 50 years.

As we sit here today, I guess I would just close by saying this, I hope the next 50 years for TLC are every bit as great as the last 50.

Congratulations!

Description (13:20)

The screen transitions to show Senator Karen Spilka, she is sitting in front of a window and there are decorative greens behind her. On the bottom left corner of Senator Spilka's screen, her name is displayed. On the smaller split screen to the right, there's a CDI translating into American Sign Language.

Senate President Karen Spilka Script:

Hi. It's Senate President Karen Spilka here to wish all of you at The Learning Center for the Deaf a happy 50th birthday. This is such an amazing milestone for an even more amazing organization.



Of course, I think I am a little biased because I represent Framingham. But I can't help but sing the praises of Sarah (Glenn-Smith) and the entire team of educators and advocates at The Learning Center for what you have accomplished for your students, our community and the world.

I know if Warren Schwab were still with us, he would be beaming with joy over this occasion.

So, I am honored to join you all in celebrating his vision which helped to educate and open opportunities for generations of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults.

You are truly pioneers and deserve every bit of praise for your efforts to embrace racial equality, diversity and inclusion in your services.

Because, as you know all too well, a critical part of a student's success is feeling seen. Year by year, student by student, family by family you have chipped away and have dismantled the barriers to success that everyone deserves.

So from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your dedication to Framingham, our residents and our entire commonwealth.

Congratulations again on 50 years and here's to the next 50 years!

Wishing the best for you and your families. Please stay healthy and be well.

Thank you.

Description (15:28)

[The screen transitions back to Melissa Yingst and Matthew Kohashi.](#)

Matthew:

It is always nice to hear from our state representatives. I have been told many different stories of The Learning Center's support system starting from the early days and the state has been a big part of that. It's great to know we have their continued support.

Melissa:



Oh yes, we not only need their support we need continued community support. Take a moment now and look for the number at the top of your screen. Text that number and type in INSPIRE ...

Matthew:

That's right, INSPIRE! It is now my pleasure to introduce the next guest, our CEO, Dr. Sarah Glenn Smith and the Board of Trustees to share a few words.

Welcome by Sarah Glenn-Smith - CEO

Description (16:22)

The screen transitions to show the CEO of Learning Center, Sarah Glenn-Smith. Her name appears on the bottom left corner as "Dr. Sarah Glenn-Smith" in white writing and role, "Chief Executive Officer" immediately below that in gold writing.

Sarah Glenn-Smith Script:

Hello! Welcome to the Learning Center for the Deaf's 50th anniversary gala.

This past year has been uniquely challenging. Yet, I am here today feeling inspired. As I reflect on the past year, it allows me to acknowledge and celebrate the true magic and heart of the Learning Center.

That heart is a culmination of people, over the past 50 years, devoting their lives to create and shape the beautiful organization that we have today.

One thing that is certain, is that change does not happen overnight and change is not always easy. However, throughout our 50 year history, The Learning Center, alongside the Deaf Community, has proven time and time again that it is up for the challenge, that it can persevere, beat the odds and come out an even stronger organization.

I feel honored to work alongside a strong leadership team. Together, we will ensure that Warren's vision is infused and carried forward into the future.

When I look to what is ahead for The Learning Center, I see a continued commitment to further enhance the quality of our education, mental health, advocacy, audiological, and interpreting services, particularly through the lens of anti-racism.

As we have come together to collectively catalyze change and to push The Learning Center ahead, I look across the organization and I see people who are energized and ready to embrace new challenges. Collectively, we will continue to build and shape the



organization to be a place of excellence. A place that is Deaf-centered, and a place where all people feel welcomed, included, and embraced.

Thank you again and enjoy the rest of the show!

Congratulations on 50 years - Board of Trustees

Description (18:16)

The screen transitions to show Trustee member, Joseph Innes. His name appears on the bottom left corner of the pop-up screen as “Joseph Innes” in white writing and his role, “Trustee” immediately below that in gold writing.

Jay Innes Script:

Hello to all of you in The Learning Center Community: students, staff, teachers, administrators, parents, and everyone who makes up this community. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we extend our deep, heartfelt congratulations to all of you for your successes over the past 50 years. The Learning Center serves the community by providing services in education, audiology, interpreting, mental health, and more. It has been an amazing ride. We are like a seed that has blossomed and grown by leaps and bounds. And we, on the board, are looking forward to what the next 50 years will bring.

Congratulations.

Description (19:10-19:40)

Members from the Board of Trustee appear, each saying “Congratulations” and doing hand-wave.

TLC Program Descriptions

Description (19:40)

There is a new split screen that appears. On the left is a scanned photograph of TLC's founder, Warren Schwab, taken in the 1970s. On the right, is Founder Warren Schwab. The scanned images changes on the left side of the screen.

Program Leaders Script:

Warren:



Hello! My name is Warren Scwab. WAY back in 1970 we started The Learning Center.

Description (19:55)

On the right side of the split screen, the image transitions to show Lydia Colon of the Audiology Clinic.

Lydia:

In 1975, the Audiology program was established. Now we have been voted The Best Audiology services in MetroWest.

Description (20:04)

The right side of the split screen again transitions to show Peter Badavas of the Badavas Parent Infant Program.

Peter:

In 1976 TLC established the Parent Infant Program, also known as PIP, which was one of the first programs in the country to provide deaf infants and toddlers exposure to American Sign Language in addition to spoken English as well as to offer parents instruction in the use of ASL.

Description (20:29)

The right side of the screen transitions to show Judy Vreeland.

Judy V:

In 1987, The Learning Center established Walden House. A residential school and treatment program serving Deaf children with severe emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges.

Walden House has since become Walden School, serving Deaf children from all over the country.

Description (21:04)

The right side of the screen transitions to show May-Lin Eu.

May-lin:

In 1990, TLC became a bilingual-bicultural school.

In 2016, TLC became a full fledged organization and our school program was renamed The Marie Philip School or MPS.



Description (21:21)

The speaker side of the screen transitions again to show Kym Meyer.

Kym:

In 2002, TLC launched The Outreach Partnership Program or TOPP, now called Public School Partnerships or PSP. This department provides comprehensive consultative and direct services to deaf and hard of hearing students in public schools throughout Massachusetts. PSP has provided services to over 450 students in 70 school districts this year.

Description (21:54)

The right side of the split screen transitions to show Ivy Velez.

Ivy:

In 2005, the Wraparound Program was established and quickly expanded over the years. In 2016, it was renamed Walden Community Services or WCS.

Description (22:13)

The screen transitions and now shows Betty Filipkowski.

Betty:

In 2011, TLC's interpreting department offered interpreting services for mainstream academic classes. We now offer both certified Deaf and ASL interpreters for mainstream classes as well as a variety of business and medical settings.

Description (22:33)

The screen returns to show the two Gala emcees Melissa Yingst and Matthew Kohashi.

Melissa:

Wow!

Matthew

Wow, alright!

Melissa:

The Learning Centers history is truly so powerful... It has been an inspiring 50 years in the making.....



Matthew:

Oh, for sure! Starting off as a small school and continuing to build various programs we have now, you can see how we have become the multi-service organization we are today.

Melissa:

The legacy continues and the history shows that TLC has had a long lasting impact on what we see today. So, how did this all begin anyways???

Matthew:

Well it all started in 1970 with a gentleman named Warren Schwab. He wanted to start a school where Deaf children could sign freely, which brings me to our next video. It was my pleasure to chat with two wonderful people, Mike and Derm.

Reflections on Warren's Spirit and Character: Mike Bello and Derm Kohane

Description (23:20)

The screen transitions to show former TLC Superintendent, Mike Bello.

Mike

Hello. I am Mike Bello, and I am a former president of The Learning Center.

Description (23:30)

The screen changes to show Derm Keohane, a former teacher at the Learning Center.

Derm:

My name is Derm Kohane and I am a part of The Learning Center Family from a longgg time ago.

Description (23:43)

The screen changes to read "What's your favorite memory of Warren Schwab?" in gold lettering against a black background.

Description (23:48)

The screen changes to show former TLC Superintendent Mike Bello.

Mike:



My earliest memory of Warren is that upon meeting him for the first time, I knew he was a man I wanted to work with. It was evident he had respect for other people and treated them as equals. He...he did not respect an authoritative style of leadership - it was all about teamwork. My other memories are filled with good times and laughter . He loved a good joke. He clearly had a warm and friendly personality that people would instantly love upon meeting him. I know that was true for me.

Description (24:22)

“How do you describe Warren Schwab in one word?” appears in gold lettering against a black background.

Description (24:27)

The screen changes to show former TLC teacher, Derm Keohane.

Derm:

So many words come to mind! However I think one word that describes him best is Fearless. He feared nothing. Often he would say “Everything will be fine... it’s ok.. Don’t worry.”

He was always calm. But depending on the day you asked me to describe him I might pick a different word. I might describe him as C-R-A-Z-Y - a crazy guy. Still, he was Fearless.....

If you asked me again on another day how to describe him, I would say Kind. He was so kind and good hearted. He was a good man with a big heart....and yet again.... I would say Fearless.

Those are important characteristics of a good leader: Fearless, flexible and kindhearted. Those are the 3 words I would use to best describe Warren.

Description (25:25)

“What would be Warren Schwab’s vision for the next 50 years at TLC?” appears in gold lettering against a black background.

Description (25:30)

Mike Bello, former TLC President, appears on screen.



Mike:

I have an answer to that. That's an easy question. Warren had an expression that he often used. He would say, "If you stand still and don't move forward and don't continue to build on what you have, you will not grow or change....you will die." That was his motto.

In those 50 years Warren did what others said he could not do.

As you may know, Warren opened a school for a few children to use sign language. People said, "You can't do that in Massachusetts!" But he did. And the school flourished.

On the same campus, he opened Walden House, a program for children with special needs. People said "You can't do *that* on the same campus with elementary, middle school and high school students!". He did. The program was a huge success.

He started an Audiology Clinic and got the same response from people....but he did it anyway.

He was told, "You can't do that!" time and time again. His response was always to prove them wrong and do it anyway.

The Learning Center became a model of growth and change for schools for the Deaf around the country. The growth led to a parent infant program, the partnership program working with public schools, interpreting services, and more. I could go on and on about his accomplishments. Each program was a success because he did not stand still. He continued to change and innovate. Warren followed his motto. "If you stand still and do nothing, you will die." and that had a huge impact on how he ran the school. For the next 50 years, Warren would want to see The Learning Center, the Marie Philip School, and Walden School continue to thrive and, of course, add and enhance programs.

Description (26:16)

[The screen switches to show Derm Keohane, former TLC teacher.](#)

Derm:

Well, that is a challenging question to answer. Warren had ideas, goals and a vision for The Learning Center. He knew where he wanted to go, but how he got there was rarely with a straight path from point A to point B.



The philosophy, activities and changes that were utilized depended on the kids who were at the school at any given time and what worked for them. Warren was flexible and open-minded . If the teachers did something that worked well for students, and felt strongly on keeping it for the future, Warren would support that. Again, Warren was focused not on the end game, but the journey that took them to what worked!

He was open to change, accepting of things, and continually trying new ideas. He was so open. As for the next 50 years? Warren would probably say, more Deaf kids, teachers, Deaf professionals and more of what's working. Adapt depending on what is in front of you and try to do the right thing all the time.

He was never about being authoritarian or thinking his idea was the right one. He was open to all ideas as long as those ideas worked for the kids.

Presentation of the Warren Schwab Memorial Award Karen Bishop

Description (26:50)

Karen Bishop, Chief Operating Officer, now appears on the screen. Her name and role appears in white and gold writing on the bottom left corner of the screen.

Karen Bishop Script:

Hello Everyone, my name is Karen Bishop.

I'm thrilled to be here tonight to present the second annual Warren Schwab Memorial Award .

Tonight's winner is Marie Philip.

Tonight we honor Marie for her many contributions to The Learning Center.

Marie was a friend, a counselor, a teacher, a mentor and a mediator. She brought ASL to The Learning Center. Her countless contributions to TLC were invaluable.

I am thrilled I had the opportunity to work with Marie. What The Learning Center has become, what you see before you today is because of Marie and Warren..

I present tonight's award to Marie Philip's family. Thank you Marie for everything you did for The Learning Center.



Marie Jean Philip Family Presentation

Description (27:57)

The screen now changes to Sue Philip, the sister of Marie Philip.

Philip Family Script:

Sue:

Hello Everyone. My name is Sue, Marie Philip's sister and I am the second of three.

Description (28:05)

The screen changes to Joan Philip, another one of Marie Philip's sisters.

Joan:

Hi there, I'm Joan, Marie's other sister and the baby of the family.

Description (28:11)

The screen shows Jessica Meehan, the niece of Marie Philip.

Jessica:

Hi. I'm Jessica and Marie was my aunt.

Description (28:19)

The screen shows Jonah Meehan, the nephew of Marie Philip.

Jonah:

Hi. I'm Jonah, Aunt Marie's nephew.

Description (28:27)

The screen now shows just Sue Philip.

Sue:

When I think about Warren and his vision for a school for deaf children, as there were none that used sign language at the time, that was the beginning of The Learning Center in 1970.

.....the school's philosophy, however, was known as 'total communication'....using spoken language, fingerspelling, and a signed version of English. That continued for a number of years.



As time goes on....Warren meets my sister who challenges him.

They begin talking about a bilingual approach to teaching.

Countless conversations ensued .. hmmmWarren listens.....and says ..OK!

It was a revolutionary change for TLC and today's bilingual bicultural education for deaf children.

Warren was the first recipient of this award, and tonight Marie will be the second.

How fitting for them both in sharing this award together..... Their relationship took TLC far.....and we think of them... wherever they may be. ...

Description (29:34)

The screen zooms in on Jessica.

Jessica:

Warren. He LOVED my aunt so much. He spoke so highly of her and cared for her deeply.

After her passing, any time Warren saw me, he was always ready to give me a big hug. He cherished her.

This is so fitting. The last time I saw Warren, it was about a year before his passing...he saw me and gave me that hug...every time I saw him....I would think about my Aunt Marie and how together they worked so hard to establish The Learning Center and to see its continued growth and legacy live on...As my Aunt Sue said, this is perfect that Aunt Marie is being honored as the second recipient of the Warren Schwab award....thank you to The Learning Center for the Deaf.

Description (30:27)

The screen returns to a four-way split image before zooming in on Jonah.

Jonah:

You know, it is very fitting that my aunt is receiving this award because you have Warren, who of course founded the first school for the deaf to allow sign language in Massachusetts. And then about 15 years later, my Aunt Marie comes into the picture and changes the way we teach deaf children by establishing the bilingual-bicultural philosophy. This emphasis to separate the use of English from ASL was the beginning



of a transformation of deaf education...not only at The Learning Center, but to eventually become the model for schools nationally and internationally. I get goosebumps just thinking about it. So thank you for sharing this moment with us.

Description (31:11)

The screen now switches to Joan Philip.

Joan:

We want to thank the committee for your consideration and decision to grant this award to Marie. It means the world to this family that her legacy is embraced and will be carried on through our deaf children.

Thank you.

Description (31:28)

The screen returns to the four-way split image.

Joan: And keep up the good work and never stop!

Description (31:35)

The screen has now transitioned back to show 50th Anniversary Gala emcees Melissa Yingst and Matthew Kohashi. Above the split screen showing the two emcees is "Text 'INSPIRE' to 844-387-6066"

Matthew:

As a reminder to everyone who has joined us...if you would like to make a donation and make a difference in The Learning Center community, remember to text the word INSPIRE to the number above.

Melissa:

Yes please do, your generous donations will allow TLC to continue to grow and develop even more programs with a long lasting impact...in just a moment here we're going to have a 5 min break, then hold onto your seats for more entertainment by Justin Perez!!

5 Minute Break - Sponsor slides/logos

Description (32:08)



The screen returns to an arc split screen. On the left, there are varying images that portray life at the Learning Center, the Marie Philip School, Walden School, and other programs that falls under the umbrella of the Learning Center's organization.

On the right part of the split screen, there is the TLC Logo; but instead of the usual colors, it is in gold with a gradient effect. Right below there is a timer that begins at "00:05:00", and at the bottom of the screen it reads "5 minutes break" in all capital letters and white font.

In the final thirty seconds of the video, there is a countdown that begins with varying faculty and students signing the number that displays on the right side of the screen in the count-down. When the countdown ends, there is an explosion effect with confetti, and the whole screen shows the TLC logo.

Justin Perez - Part 2

Description (37:15)

The screen transitions to show Justin Perez doing a dramatic story-telling in ASL.

Description (40:02)

The screen transitions to show the two Gala emcees — Melissa and Matthew.

Melissa:

Oh Wow! I mean the best!

Matthew:

Just incredible! You know, Marie Philip would have been blown away by today's Visual Vernacular performances. This new... modern ASL...is just so cool!

Melissa:

Yes I agree, Marie Philip is a legacy in her own right. Speaking of Marie, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to interview some students and ask them questions about Marie Philip. Oh, they were sooooo cute!!

You have to watch this.....



Slideshow of Marie Philip

Description: (40:35)

The screen transitions to an archived footage of Marie J. Philip. In the bottom left corner of the pop-up screen, it reads “Marie Jean Philip” in white font and “Visionary Leader” in gold.

Melissa Yingst interview with MPS students

Description (41:09)

The screen transitions to show a four-way split screen. On the top left is Gala emcee, Melissa, and three other people. On the top right of the split screen is an adolescent girl, with wavy brunette hair and she is wearing a yellow sweater. On the bottom left is a young boy wearing a grey button-up t-shirt. On the bottom right is a young woman wearing a striped t-shirt.

MPS Student Script:

Melissa:

Hiiiiii! Oh, I am so excited to be here with you three!

3 Students: at the same time.....Hii

Melissa:

Let me introduce myself, my name is Melissa and this is how you sign my name. Now, I want to know about the three of you. Could you guys go ahead and introduce yourselves....

Theo:

I'll go....Hello. My name is Theo, and this is how you sign my name.....

Melissa:

Theo... Okay, Theo, neat! What grade are you in, Theo?

Theo:

First grade.



Melissa:

Oh....first grade - awesome.... And you?

Lucy:

Hi, my name is Lucy, this is my sign name, and I'm in 8th grade.

Melissa:

Okay Lucy....ohhha middle schooler that's headed to high school soon.....

Julissa:

My name is Julissa, this is my name sign and I'm a sophomore in high school.

Melissa:

Julissa. Wow, a sophomore, that's awesome.

Well, so nice to see the three of you, from Elementary to Middle to High school. I just love meeting students! The only downside to this is I actually wish we were doing this in person; I wish we were having this conversation in person.

So, today we are her because I want to know more about Marie Philip. I have heard, just always, I have heard wonderful things about her, and now I have the three of you to tell me about who she was...Okay... Am I signing her name right first of all, is this how you sign her name?

All 3: mmm-hmm

Melissa:

Okay. Marie Philip, great, okay ... What was she like? Theo, we will start with you.

Theo:

Well, Marie Philip, she was SHORT! And loved to tell stories....

Melissa:

Oh, yes, I heard she was quite the storyteller!You know, I have many adult friends that remember her when they were younger and they always talk about those stories that she shared, ohhh, such fond stories, really sweet.

Lucy, can you tell me more about Marie Phillip?

Lucy:



Sure, Marie Philip was AWESOME!

Not only was she an amazing storyteller, but she was a great advocate for Deaf people. Doing a lot of research in relation to Deaf Culture. She was also a pioneer for the Bi-Bi curriculum.

Melissa:

Ok, the Bi-Bi program... the Bilingual program...can you tell me more about that?

Julissa:

So, the bi-bi program refers to two languages and two cultures. ASL and English are taught at the same time. Which is a great model for language acquisition and cultural learning for Deaf children. And this is why Marie Philip strongly believed in the BiBi philosophy and traveled the world, proudly sharing her knowledge and teaching others about it. And since then, many Deaf schools around the world have adopted it as their philosophy and we have Marie Philip to thank for it.

Melissa

So nice to know that she has left a strong legacy Even though she is no longer here; however, her work philosophy still continues to live on Thank you for sharing so much about Marie Philip.....Now I'm wondering, do you know what her favorite color was?

All 3 - at same time....

Oh yeah, her favorite color is purple!

Melissa:

Oh purple! Really? Purple! Oh, I do like the color purple. Purple just always has great ENERGY about it. It really does.

Melissa:

Ok, What about her favorite drink ...?

Lucy - Coffee.

Melissa:

Well that I get... ..coffee is one of my favs as well....it just gives you that burst of energy that you need... Thank you so much...Nice, great job. Yeah, Julissa.....



Julissa:

I just was....

Melissa: Sure

Julissa:

I had a question for Melissa, I was curious, what motivates you to go out and interview so many people in the Deaf community?

Melissa:

Mmmhmm, that's a really good question. Well, I always think that in our community - each one of us has a unique story to share.....whether or not they are well known, or live under the radar.....they have life experiences, life stories that need to be heard and that need to be shared. Because, if we do not share our stories, if those perspectives are not disclosed, how can we truly grow and become better collectively as a community?

Also, I LOVE meeting people, I really do. I always feel when I encounter a new person, I learn so much from them and that has true application to my very own life, and I value that very much.

Thank you for asking that question

Julissa:

You're welcome!

Description (45:38)

The screen transitions back to the two Gala emcees, Melissa and Matthew.

Matthew:

Aw, that was awesome! You must have enjoyed those conversations

Matthew and Melissa:

I know...cute right? Adorable! Yes!

Melissa:



I love students. I love to learn from them and see what they have to say. These kids are so bright and truly so cute!

Matthew:

That's the next generation and our future is bright. I'm certainly looking forward to it. Speaking of our younger generation, our next video is ASL poetry created by our very own Walden School students...enjoy!

Walden School Students

Description (46:08)

The scene transitions to show a sequence of clips by three Walden School students.

Walden School Student Poem:

Alaurial: Together We're Strong

Alaurial and Amogne: Together We're Inspired

Kade: Inspired!

Alaurial: Together We Laugh

Kade: And Learn

Amogne: Together We Work

Alaurial: Together we are The Learning Center

Description (46:30)

The screen transitions back to the Gala emcees, Melissa and Matthew.

Matthew:

That was great! Are you feeling inspired yet Melissa??

Melissa:



Oh Wow. They did outstanding. I truly feel inspired. Do all of you feel inspired? And if you do, a great reminder to text the number above the word INSPIRE...come on now....

Matthew:

Now, as we all can attest, this has been a very unique year, a challenging year coping with COVID-19, which has thrown a huge curveball to everyone. With that, we want to express our gratitude and tip our hats to all of you who have worked so hard in helping The Learning Center get through this together as we continue to look forward.

Melissa:

It truly does take teamwork and collaboration....to make the best out of this challenging situation for students, staff and the community. It does not go unnoticed.

Matthew:

Well, did you know that our Walden School treatment program operates 24/7? Which means despite everything that was happening, our Walden School staff still showed up every day, to be there for the kids, including the nursing department, to ensure the program was still operating as usual.

Melissa: Hats off to them.

Matthew: In our other programs - Marie Philip School, Public School Partnership, the teachers and staff transformed their homes into virtual classrooms and quickly adjusted their curriculum to adjust for remote learning.

Melissa: The level of adaptability that is just necessary!.

Matthew: It was not easy for anyone so again a tip of the cap to you all. Thank you.

Melissa:

Honestly, you have to call the teachers and staff our true HEROS. The level of adaptability that's necessary to meet the students needs. And also, adapting to their own needs. They must be recognized and kudos to all of them.

Matthew:

Not only that, our outreach program, Walden Community Services, does their best work in clients' homes and they had to make a quick turn around to provide the same services through telehealth. All remote...not an easy task.



Our Audiology Clinic actually came up with a creative “tips” video which taught their clients how to troubleshoot their hearing aids at home. They also started to offer early morning appointments to adjust their typical schedules.

Let us not forget the biggest tip of the hat goes to our students and families for all of the adjustments they have made in their lives during this pandemic. We know many milestones were lost and yet they remained positive through it all. So again, a huge round of applause for all of the families.

Congratulations to All TLC staff/COVID Slideshow

Description (49:29)

The screen fades out and transitions into a sequence of images and clips. The message is showing TLC resiliency through the past year during the coronavirus pandemic.

(50:30) An overlay blurs out the present image and clip sequences, and with “#WeAreTLC” in the center of the screen.

(50:36 – 50:38) The screen fades out and fades in to show emcees Melissa and Matthew.

Matthew: Wow! Great job!!

Melissa:

Ok...it is time now for our second award - The Alumni Award. Matthew, you and I know Alumni are an integral part of a school for the deaf. Personally, I went to a mainstream school and when I hear the stories of graduates from these schools saying their schools always felt like “home,” something in that strikes me ... they continually give back to their schools and promote what schools of the deaf are all about. This award is very fitting ...

Presentation of Alumni Association Award Jennifer Greenfield and Michelle Cline



Description (51:16)

The screen switches to a new split-screen, showing two women. The one on the left split-screen is Michelle Cline, director of Walden School. She is standing in front of a dark backdrop. The woman on the right split screen is Jennifer Greenfield, president of Marie Philip School. She is standing in front of a green backdrop.

Jennifer Greenfield and Michelle Cline Script:

Michelle:

Hello Everyone. My name is Michelle Cline and I am the Executive Director of Walden School

Jennifer:

Hello, I'm Jennifer Greenfield, the Superintendent of the Marie Philip School

Michelle:

This year, 2021, will mark the first year we bestow an annual Alumni Award. This is in recognition of all of our graduates' years of service and numerous contributions after they leave TLC.

Jennifer:

We are honored to grant this award for the first time to our alumni during the 50th year celebration.

Michelle:

This award will become part of our annual Gala traditions -- to recognize the commitment and contributions you have given financially, your time and your energy in engaging all alumni to be a part of The Learning Center community.

Jennifer :

Congratulations to the Learning Center alumni!

Scott Hakulin and Shayla Rochette

Description (52:19)

The screen transitions to show Scott Hakulin, TLC Alumni class of 1989.



Scott Hakulin Script:

Hello Everyone! My name is Scott Hakulin. As an alumnus of The Learning Center, Class of 1989. I'm representing the TLC Alumni Association in accepting this award for all alumni who have graduated from The Learning Center for their service, 1984 to present day.

This award represents our commitment, contributions, and devotion of time and energy to the TLC Community.

I can not tell you what a tremendous honor it is to receive this award tonight from The Learning Center as we celebrate 50 years of TLC here at the Gala. With the most sincere gratitude, we thank you.

Let me show you this beautiful award...

Description (53:15)

Scott picks up a plague that is clear glass and has white inscription on it.

(53:22) The plague is held closely to the camera. On it is inscribed the TLC Logo, "2021 Award for Service presented to TLC Alumni," and below in italics "In honor of your devotion of time and energy to the TLC community."

I am also honored to welcome our soon-to-be graduates of the Marie Philip School and the Walden School to membership in the Alumni Association.

Welcome! And Congratulations!

Description (53:43)

The screen transitions to show Shayla Rochette, a senior at MPS.

Shayla Script:

Thank you, TLC! We appreciate this award and look forward to leading the next generation of TLC Alumni! Thank you.

Congratulations Messages from Program Staff

Description (53:51 – 54:05)

The screen shows an image sequence of staff from the interpreting department.



(54:06 – 54:15) The screen shows multiple split-screens of various faculty members, both past and present.

Description (54:16)

The screen returns to the two Gala emcees, Matthew and Melissa.

Melissa:

Congratulations ..yes!

Matthew

Congratulations! You know it was not only the pandemic that hit us hard over this past year. The Black Lives Matter movement really impacted the entire TLC community. This next message is from our CEO Sarah Glenn-Smith and our Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, Kyle Amber Clark.

**Looking ahead to the next 50 , Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan
Sarah Glenn-Smith - CEO
Kyle Amber Clark - CEIO**

Description (54:48)

The screen transitions to Sarah Glenn-Smith, TLC's CEO, and Kyle Amber Clark, TLC's CEIO, sitting at a table.

Sarah Glenn- Smith and Kyle Amber Clark Gala Script:

Sarah:

I have thoroughly enjoyed looking back at the 50 year history of The Learning Center. It will be great to see what additions we can make to that history in the years to come.

And now, it is my pleasure to introduce our new CEIO, Kyle Amber Clark.

Description (55:02)

The screen shifts focus to Kyle Amber Clark.

Kyle Amber:

Wow, when we look back over the last 50 years, the legacy of TLC must continue. That is done by creating a safe space where all feel welcomed.



Our strategic plan becomes that roadmap which must overlay with a racial equity lens. With a racial equity lens, it affords us the opportunity to critically look at the organizational structure, our culture, program accreditations, and curriculum development to make the dynamic shift that is requisite for TLC to robustly continue for another 50 years! I am looking forward to what lies ahead!

Description (55:34)

The screen shifts focus to Sarah Glenn-Smith.

Sarah:

I truly want to thank everyone for attending. I would like to thank the entire Learning Center team for getting through this difficult year together, and coming together tonight to celebrate both the history and the future of The Learning Center.

Thank you to Bus Door Films for producing our show and to our talented Advancement team for putting this all together. Thank you to all of the support people who made this event possible. I'd also like to thank our two special hosts, Matthew and Melissa. And thank you to the entire Learning Center community, I'm looking forward to what the next 50 years has in store for all of us.

Description (55:06)

The screen returns to Melissa and Matthew.

Melissa: Plus....stand by for another performance by Justin Perez !!...and yes, much as I try to follow him....I do not do him justice... just enjoy...

Justin Perez - Part 3

Description (56:21)

The screen transitions to show Justin Perez doing a dramatic story-telling in ASL.

Description (59:03)

The screen returns to Melissa and Matthew one last time.

Matthew:

Wow, I am excited for the future of The Learning Center for the Deaf!

Melissa:



Oh, likewise, I look forward to supporting the growth of this organization and want to take this opportunity to recognize our sponsors who made tonight possible. You, too, are responsible for all of us enjoying this event this evening.

Matthew:

I agree with you, none of this would have been possible without them. And don't forget, all of you watching can also support us by....

Melissa: Hmm...Text INSPIRE, yes....

Matthew: That's right...texting the word INSPIRE to the number above. Now, Melissa....I have a little surprise for you...

Description (59:41)

Matthew holds up a gift bag.

Melissa:

Oh, really? I love surprises. Ooh... ..look at this. What do we have here?

Description (59:45)

Melissa holds up a gift bag, from which she pulls out a fanny pack. She then pulls out a mug with the TLC Logo printed on the front. Finally, she pulls out a dark t-shirt that has the TLC logo printed inside a white circle. In addition to the logo, the print also reads "Est. 1970"

Melissa: Oh, this is perfect for my walks. It will hold my keys and my sunglasses....

Matthew:

They have made a comeback from the 80s!

Melissa: You know fanny packs are coming back in style ..

Matthew:

You know, coffee was Marie Philip's favorite drink!



Melissa:

Oh...I love my coffee..yes!

Just like Marie Philip. Yes, something we have in common.

Matthew:

There you go, you can now represent us well!

Melissa:

Oh...very nice...

Dear memories of this evening. Thank you. What a huge honor it is - just to be with all of you this evening...truly.

Matthew:

Yes! And hopefully you will be able to come visit us soon!

Melissa:

Yes... invite me....

Matthew:

Well...perhaps you would consider being our emcee for our 100th celebration??

Melissa:

Hmm, how old will I beyou know what, age is just a number. I'm there for the 100th anniversary...right?

Matthew:

Exactly! And with the future, who knows what we can expect to see!

Melissa and Matthew Together: Thank you everyone for watching!

Description (1:00:46)

The screen fades out as a confetti explosion effect appears on the screen. Everything fades out to show the TLC logo, all in gold, against a black backdrop.

(1:00:58) Video ends.