



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Manny Scott, original *Freedom Writer*, to share his story of perseverance at William Allen community event

Public invited to January 23 presentation; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

An original “Freedom Writer” from the 2007 hit movie of the same name, Manny Scott, will bring his message of healing, hope, perseverance, and possibility to William Allen High School in a series of presentations – including a Free community event.

The public is invited to attend Scott’s presentation on January 23, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in William Allen’s J. Milo Swards Gymnasium. Scott will present: “Understanding One Another and Working Together for the Success of Our Children” for all ASD families and the entire community. Earlier that day he will present to the William Allen Staff and the next day Scott will address the students. All three events feature a Q&A session with Scott.

William Allen is located at 106 North 17th Street. Entrance to J. Milo Swards Gymnasium is from the Turner Street doors.

Manny Scott’s story has energized over a million leaders, educators, volunteers, and students worldwide though his authentic, inspiring messages of hope. From inner-city youth to business executives, Manny has learned to speak, and command, the language of his audiences with relevant, riveting, and compelling messages, moving them from cheers, to laughter, to tears, and go-forward determination.

“Manny’s story of overcoming personal struggles, of having the ability to change your own life-path, and of making a difference for yourself and others is a story we want resonating in the halls of Allen,” states Luke Shafnisky, Principal of William Allen High School. “That’s why we have him presenting to our staff and faculty during our Professional Development Day; to all of our students; and to our community – his story is truly an inspiration.”

Scott’s inspiring story begins to unfold in his challenging teens and the path he took to become the incredibly successful man he is today, including being the founder of Ink International. Scott’s story was almost over before it began. His father was incarcerated, he missed 60-90 days of school annually from

4th to 9th grade, he dropped out of school at age 14, he lived in 26 places by age 16, and his best friend was brutally murdered.

Sensing that the end of his life was near, Scott sat down on a park bench and considered how he would make others feel the depth of despair and anger. He says, "When I look back, I now see that I was heading down a path that would have destroyed me."

Then, a man—a complete stranger—took a risk, and sat down beside him. That man connected with him, encouraged him, and inspired him to write a different story—to create a new life. That day, Scott turned the page. He returned to school with a new attitude and purpose, and ended up in Erin Gruwell's English class—a group now known worldwide as the Freedom Writers, portrayed in the 2007 hit movie.

In his journal, Scott began writing—and dreaming about—new, more fulfilling chapters in his life. Chapters filled with healing, hope, perseverance, and possibility. Through very hard work, and with the help of others, Scott's life took a different trajectory and he has achieved many of his journaled dreams.

Scott founded Ink International, Inc, an educational consulting firm in 2007. The company has empowered nearly two million people to improve the quality of not only their own lives, but also the lives of those around them; Ink has helped hundreds of organizations raise student achievement and leader effectiveness in 48 states and four continents; and, Ink has helped prevent thousands of dropouts and suicides.

He is the author of three books: *Your Next Chapter*, a book that shows people, step-by-step, how to create the life of their dreams; and, *How to R.E.A.C.H. Youth Today*, a book that shares his unique approach to helping others; and, *Turning the Page*, his not-yet-released memoir that he only makes available to people who hear him in person. Scott is married with three children. In addition to running Ink and speaking around the world, he is a pilot and a Ph.D. student.