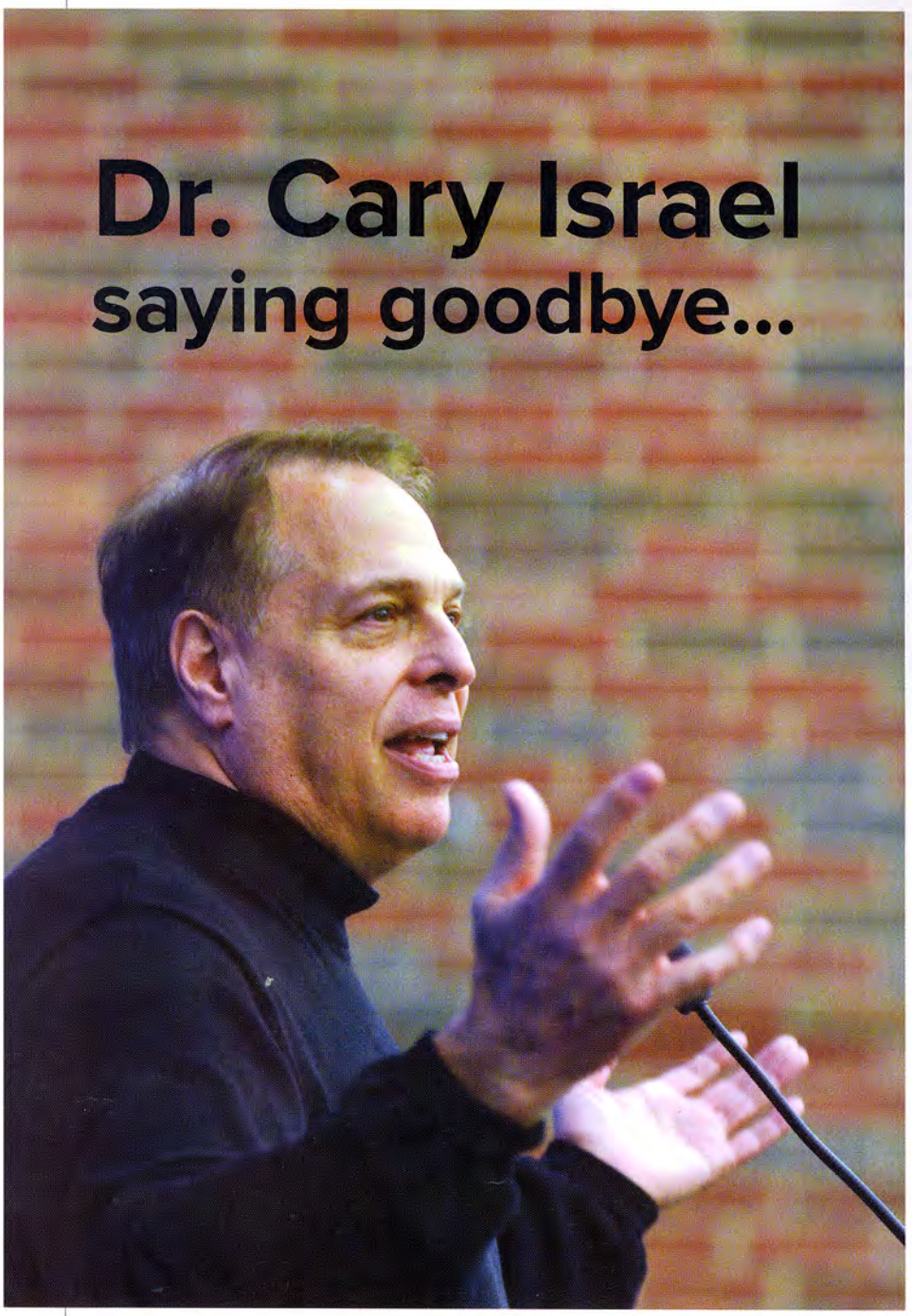
Dr. Cary Israel saying goodbye...





Cary Israel told the crowd of several hundred well wishers, "I'm going to take a vacation. I don't know where I'm going yet. I haven't had a vacation in three and a half years." At left, Dr. Israel and his wife, Trudy, laugh at a comment by Board of Trustees Chairman Mac Hendricks.

DR. CARY A. ISRAEL was honored and warmly thanked for his 16 years of leadership as president of the Collin College District on November 7. The presidential reception was held at the Central Park Campus Library in McKinney, which is one of the significant projects envisioned and directed by Dr. Israel. He will be stepping down early next year, then take time off with his family before pursuing any new challenges.

Only the second president in the history of the college, Dr. Israel built upon the strong foundation of the school when he arrived in 1999, and he has taken the college to new heights, winning prestigious academic awards and gaining national recognition.

In the last year alone, Collin College celebrated two Academic All-USA students, a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, a Carnegie Texas Professor of the Year, a $2 million gift for scholarships, a Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship, the Tech Titan Award, and top honors as a finalist for the Presidential Award on the national Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

According to Dr. Israel, "I am heartened by the tremendous impact we continue to have on our community, state and nation. It has been a marvelous journey and a privilege to serve alongside so many gifted people in this premier academic institution of higher education."

Annual enrollment under his leadership has grown to 52,000, and the college expanded campus facilities by nearly one million square feet. In addition, the college earned acclaim as a national Center of Excellence in Nursing Education, won $20 million in federal grant funds for workforce development, secured more than $11 million in grants from the National Science Foundation, and became the only college or university in Texas with six Carnegie Professors of the Year—more than Cornell, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, Rice, TCU, and The University of Texas at Austin.

The students, community, state and in fact the nation benefit from the quality education and new opportunities afforded because of Dr. Israel's passion and leadership. He has big boots to fill.













1 /Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere joined mayors from Frisco and McKinney in honoring Israel with proclamations and keys to the cities. However, LaRosiliere pointed out that Plano's key was larger much to the delight of the recipient. **2** / With founding Collin trustee Dr. Robert Collins and his wife, Claude Ann. **3** / Former board chairman Sam Roach addressed the crowd of more than 400 gathered in the Central Park Campus Library in McKinney. **4**/ Members of the board of trustees presented Israel with an artist rendering of the new Cary A. Israel Health Sciences Center currently under construction on the McKinney campus . **5**/ Chairman of the Collin College Board of Trustees Mac Hendricks. **6** / The reception ended with a standing ovation and one last wave.