



February 25, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

The Wilson Hall Class of 2015 would like to invite you to deliver its commencement address on **Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Patriot Hall in Sumter**, a local cultural arts center which seats approximately one thousand people. You can expect this arena to be filled to capacity with parents, relatives, and friends despite the limited number of graduates. We enjoy a formal ceremony, where respect and honor are exhibited by all in attendance. The audience will be strongly conservative and supportive of you and your policies.

Speaking at a high school commencement may not generate much excitement or enthusiasm. However, addressing these sixty students for fifteen minutes will have great value to them and will be something significant that they carry with them into their college years and beyond. Sometimes a speaking opportunity holds a much greater value to the audience than to the speaker, which I know you understand. Know, too, that the members of this class have specifically asked for you to address them.

As information, Wilson Hall is the state's fifth largest independent school and we have an SAT average of 1209. Having served Wilson Hall these past thirty years, I can state without reservation that our students and parents place great emphasis on both the formal education their child receives, as well as the intangibles an independent school provides. Knowing that you graduated from a preparatory school in Orangeburg, you understand the value placed on achievement and honor. Speaking to our students this spring offers the opportunity to help them understand the coming challenges they will face. For the state of South Carolina to continue to prosper we must not only attract the best and brightest minds, we must also retain those who are already in our state. This is an opportunity to share your many successes, as well as the choices these students will have in the future.

We hope that you will accept this opportunity to speak with a group of young people who can make a difference. They will see the tangible evidence of an independent school education by witnessing such an outstanding example as yourself. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Frederick B. Moulton
Headmaster