

MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

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November 9, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

As an advocate for our nation's schoolchildren and teachers, we know you share the Milken Family Foundation's ([www.mff.org](http://www.mff.org)) commitment to recognizing the outstanding work of K-12 educators.

The Milken Educator Awards ([www.milkeneducatorawards.org](http://www.milkeneducatorawards.org)) is the largest teacher recognition program in the U.S., annually honoring K-12 teachers, principals and specialists across America with \$25,000 individual awards. Each fall, these outstanding professionals are surprised with the news of their awards – which can be used any way they choose – during emotional, school-wide assemblies attended by education officials, students, peers, community leaders, and the media.

We are very pleased that this year will be an important landmark for the Milken Family Foundation. With the partnership and support of our states across the country, we are celebrating 30 years of surprising teachers during the 2016-17 notifications season. Help us say Happy Anniversary to the Milken Educator Awards program along with welcoming the newest Award recipients into our family of excellence.

**We would be honored if you could join me and Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman in making a surprise announcement to a recipient in Columbia at 10:00am on December 6, 2016. As part of the surprise awards presentation, we would invite you to announce the name of the recipient and congratulate the newest Milken Educator for South Carolina.**

*Teacher Magazine* calls the Milken Educator Awards “the Oscars of Teaching” because of their prestige and importance to educators. By taking part in this program, you will send a clear, visible message that teachers are a top priority.

As the Milken Educator Awards motto expresses, “the future belongs to the educated.” I hope you will join me as we honor one of the talented keepers of our nation's future. For questions about logistics, contact Abel Fuentes at 310-570-4783 or by email at [afuentes@mff.org](mailto:afuentes@mff.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Foley".

Jane Foley, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President, Milken Educator Awards, Milken Family Foundation  
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