



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

April 26, 2016

Mr. Jarred Turner's Class  
Roosevelt Middle School  
3233 Southwest 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73119

Dear Students,

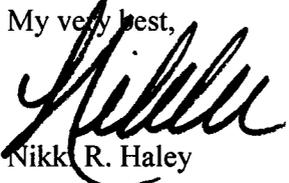
Thank you for reaching out through your teacher, Mr. Turner. I love to hear from students and appreciate your interest in our nation's government!

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as governor of the great State of South Carolina. I am the first female governor and first minority governor in South Carolina's history. Growing up, I never thought about running for office. I was never involved in student government or party politics. When I was thirteen years old, I started doing the accounting books for my family's business, a retail clothing store. My background in both my family business and, later, corporate business motivated me to run for the legislature because I wanted the Statehouse to be more business friendly and to spend tax dollars more wisely. When, after six years in the House, I couldn't get what I wanted done as a legislator, I decided to run for governor. My mother always told me, "Don't complain about it; do something about it," so that's what I did.

Trying to become governor was challenging. I ran against a Congressman, a State Attorney General, a Lieutenant Governor, and a State Senator, so I had tough competition. There were many differences between myself and the other candidates but, by finding and using the power of my voice, I showed that my differences didn't matter and that I could bring people together. I encourage you to find the power of your voice and get involved in your community. Your special gifts and talents are needed by those around you.

I wish you all the best for success going forward. God bless.

My very best,

  
Nikki R. Haley

*Proud of all of you!*

NRH/ld

Enclosures

*William R. Faley*

**GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA**