



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 44th 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 L. Daley

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA