

From: Office of the Governor Site Support  
Sent: 1/30/2015 12:34:14 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: Support Wando High AP Government

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January 23, 2015

My name is Ashley Markow, and I am writing to you on the behalf of a AP Government class at Wando High School. Our class recently took place in the We the People Competition, a simulated congressional hearing that tests constitutional analysis and government understanding. This nationwide program is sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, and in South Carolina, by the SC Bar Association. This month, our school won the South Carolina competition qualifying for the national championships to be held in Washington, D.C. during April 24-27, 2015. This is the first state championship for our school in this competition.

The We the People program is the most extensive program in the country that not only educates students on the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights but prepares them to discuss and debate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as American citizens. During the competition, panels of judges ask questions and engage the students in debates about various topics related to the principles of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court rulings.

(paraphrased from <http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/?s=we+the+people+competition>)

The following is a sample competition question:

"Only a nation of immigrants could argue so earnestly and endlessly...about who can become one of its own...Through four hundred years, we have endeavored to shape and manage the flow of immigrants." Why have Americans continued to argue about immigration and who can become a citizen? What values and principals are involved in the continuing debate? How has the Fourteenth Amendment defined citizenship, and what important rights does it confer?

As you can imagine from just this one issue, it is difficult to accurately describe the amount of effort my class and I have invested in this process. Since we won the South Carolina state

championship, we are elated and honored to have the privilege to represent our state at the national competition in Washington, D.C at the end of April. In order for my award-winning team to represent the state of South Carolina, we need to raise a substantial amount of money in a very short period of time. A total of \$30,000, or \$1,400 for each student and chaperone, is needed to make this effort a reality.

The reason I am writing is to ask you to support this excellent representation of South Carolina in the national competition. We have raised around \$8,500, but we still need to raise more funds. Please consider one of the following ways to help:

- 1- A donation of \$1,000 or more to become a platinum sponsor, with company logo on championship banner.
- 2- Become a bronze, silver, or gold sponsor with a \$250, \$500, or \$750 donation respectively. These sponsors will have their names placed on t-shirts that will be sold.

Donations can be made to the Wando PTSO, which is a 501(c)(3). You may send your donations in care of my teacher, Misty LeClerc at Wando High School, 1000 Warrior Way Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. Please note on the check We the People. The federal tax exempt number for our PTSO is 80-0542941, and all checks can be made out to "Wando PTSO" and mailed to 1000 Warrior Way % Misty LeClerc.. If you prefer to make your donation using PayPal, you may use the following link:  
<http://www.gofundme.com/k4fq4k>.

Our team consists of twenty seniors who have been taking Advanced Placement classes since entering high school. We are highly active and have managed an incredible workload to be successful thus far. They welcome the monumental responsibility of representing our state at this national competition. Please partner with us to give these young men and women the opportunity to make that happen.

You can contact my teacher, Misty LeClerc at:  
[misty\\_leclerc@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:misty_leclerc@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
843-870-9413 (c)

Sincerely,  
Ashley Markow and the Wando We the People team