

January 21, 2020

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I only learned about the Governor's School by happenstance. When I think back, that scares me.

Like many of you, I grew up in a small town. Mine is called Orangeburg. In Orangeburg, we have more than one street light, but no bookstores. We have lots of churches, but not a single movie theatre. And we have many young, aspiring artists, but very little resources to deepen and build our skills.



Considering all of that, even having learned about the Governor's School, feels like a miracle to me. One day, my 8th Grade counselor decided to drop off summer program brochures to select classes around our middle school. My English class was one of those select classes. A few days later, I happened to muster the courage to ask my parents if I could audition for art camp. My parents are immigrants and didn't see much value in art (at the time), so in any ordinary circumstances, they would have said no. But I happened to catch them on a day when they felt open to my creative whims.



The rest, I guess, is history. I first arrived on campus in ---2006 as a summer voice student in the Discovery program, and then returned for Academy the next year. And in 2010, I graduated from the Creative Writing department, and went off to Princeton for university. In the years following, I lived and worked abroad in the Middle East and China. *And now, I'm back at the Governor's School, serving as the Humanities Instructor.*

The moment I stepped on campus in 2006, I knew I was home among the community of artists that I'd always wanted growing up. *I knew that Virginia Ul-drick – through her love, grit, and determination – had given me and my peers an artistic safe haven where we would spend our days laughing and learning and growing.*

What I didn't realize was that behind the scenes the Governor's School Foundation was also providing financial support for my friends and helping expand arts education throughout the state. Whether you're here in Greenville or not, there's so much you can do to support too. **Join me in donating \$20 a month in honor of the 20th anniversary.** Your twenty dollars can mean the difference between a talented student not realizing their potential and a future Govie being able to follow their dreams.

Thanks,

Uchechi Kalu  
2010 Creative Writing Alumni

Your gift provides:

## ACCESS

- Meal plan scholarships
  - Sponsor 1 high school student for \$3,450 per school year
  - Sponsor 1 summer student for \$500
- Audition travel
- Health & Wellness Support

## OUTREACH & STATEWIDE IMPACT

- Arts education in high-needs communities
- Juried competitions
- Public school teacher trainings
- \$2,500 provides a field trip for an under - privileged school

## EXCELLENCE

- Guest artists & master classes which costs \$122,412 each year
- Faculty & staff support
- Facility upgrades and improvements

Help us to reach our  
**\$1 million**  
annual goal