



SC Governor's School
for the Arts and Humanities
FOUNDATION

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



On the film set of
"Prince Ivan and the Gray Wolf"

Because of your support, the Foundation provided

\$1,625,496

to the Governor's School in 2024-25.



Letter from the Executive Director & the Board Chair

Dear Community,

This year, we celebrated 25 years of extraordinary young artists, and none of it would have been possible without you. As we reflect on the lives changed over the past quarter-century, one thing is clear: your support continues to shape the future of the Governor's School. Because of your generosity, our students can create, grow, and thrive, regardless of their financial circumstances. For that, we are deeply grateful. In this report, you'll read about some of the incredible milestones you helped make possible this year.

2024–2025 marked the inaugural year of the school's newest department: Film. Thanks to donor support, this program launched with state-of-the-art equipment that gave students access to professional tools and hands-on training. Within months, our first class of film students created original work, and several of their projects have already earned awards! We can't wait to see what else these Govies accomplish. See page six to learn more about this incredible new program.

We also marked a milestone at the 25th Anniversary Gala, which raised more than \$250,000 in direct support for students and school initiatives. Whether it's meal plan assistance, guest artists, or statewide outreach, your generosity makes these opportunities possible. The evening was filled with stories of impact, honoring our past and celebrating a bold vision for the future. Check out pages eight and nine for Gala photos and information.

The Office of Outreach, which, **for the second year in a row**, served all 46 counties in South Carolina. This incredible reach ensures that students and teachers in every corner of our state can experience the transformational power of the arts.

None of this would be possible without you! Your belief in the Governor's School and your commitment to access, equity, and excellence fuel everything we do. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us build a brighter, more creative future for South Carolina's young artists. We always welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please don't hesitate to contact us at amanda.herlihy@gsafoundation.net—we'd love to hear from you.

With Gratitude,

Amanda Herlihy
Amanda Herlihy
Executive Director



Fain S. McDaniel
Fain McDaniel
Board Chair

A Message From the Governor's School President

25 YEARS



Dr. Cedric Adderley
President

As we turn the page on the academic year and bring our 25th Anniversary to an end, I stand in awe of what our very special learning community has accomplished. Over the course of our yearlong celebration, we honored the past, celebrated the present, and envisioned a bold future for the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities. Together, we achieved what we set out to do.

From start to finish, this historic year was filled with both artistic excellence and academic achievement—from over 100 Scholastic Regional Award winners and YoungArts honorees to some of our school's most powerful performances and artistic events. Our partnerships extended from the Peace Center to school districts across the state, and our impact was felt in all forty-six counties of South Carolina. Culminating with a commencement ceremony celebrating 102 remarkable seniors, we honored the fact that their resilience and brilliance embody the spirit of "Many Paths, One Community: Govie Unity" in the most positive and noble manner.

As in years past, these moments—and the transformational experiences behind them—were made possible in large part through the enduring partnership of the Governor's School Foundation. **The Foundation's leadership and donor support were essential in elevating our guest artist program, funding need-based financial assistance, and opening doors for Govies to showcase their talents and receive mentorship from professionals across creative disciplines.** Thanks to this partnership, we also celebrated the arrival of four new Steinway pianos, hosted our most successful anniversary gala to date, and launched the Thrive25 initiative to propel our students into the next era of excellence.

We are especially proud of the ways the Foundation helped us expand our statewide reach. From record attendance at Artisphere and Go Govie Day, to the impact of the Spark and Coastal Creatives outreach programs across South Carolina, we continued to plant seeds of creativity and arts opportunities far beyond our Greenville campus.

The past 25 years have shown what's possible when gifted young artists are met with high expectations and unwavering support. And as we look ahead to our next chapter, we do so with deep gratitude for the Foundation, our donors, alumni, and partners who make this journey possible. The legacy we've built together is both vibrant and meaningful, and without question, the best is yet to come.

With appreciation,

BECAUSE OF YOU

\$1,625,496
CONTRIBUTED TO THE SCHOOL

"Thank you so much for all
your support... this school has
genuinely changed my life."
— Current Govie

32% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
RECEIVED MEAL SUPPORT



71
GUEST ARTISTS
SHARED THEIR
EXPERTISE
WITH STUDENTS



100% OF SC COUNTIES REACHED



94
STUDENT
PRODUCTIONS
FUNDED



ROLLING!

A New Era Begins

Every so often, a sea change reshapes the arts, shifting what's possible and opening new creative frontiers. In modern history, few shifts have been as monumental as the invention of motion pictures. Film has transformed the arts in countless ways, and now, **thanks to your support**, it's shaping young artists at the Governor's School. This year, with backing from the Foundation, the Governor's School proudly introduced its first full-time Film department, the school's first new art discipline since 1999.

Your early investment through the Foundation provided the essential seed funding needed to purchase professional-grade equipment and helped bring a long-held dream to life. This landmark represents a bold step forward in arts education and reflects the growing demand for creative talent in South Carolina and beyond.

Looking Ahead

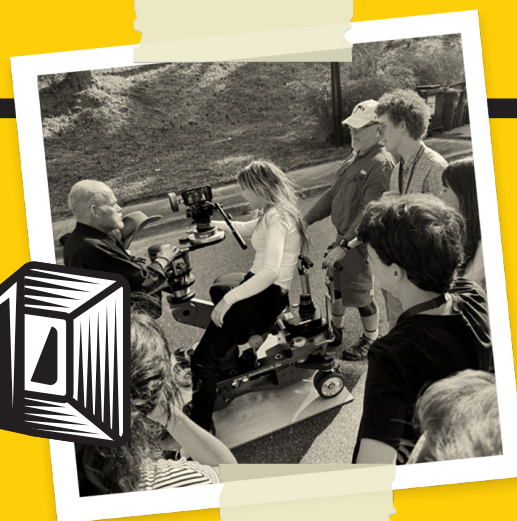
Film students will spend two years immersed in the craft of filmmaking, culminating in the production of a major original film, a transformative experience made possible by your investment. When they graduate, they will carry with them the skills, experience, and confidence to pursue their dreams in the growing film industry. Your backing is not just launching a program—it's launching careers. As the Film department grows, so does its power to transform the creative economy of our state and open new doors for South Carolina's young artists.



"I WANTED TO GO BACK TO MY HOME STATE, MY HOME COMMUNITY, AND BE THE TEACHER THAT I WISH I'D HAD GROWING UP."

—KEVIN HUMAN
FILM DEPT. CHAIR

Watch the entire student film, "Prince Ivan and the Gray Wolf," featured on the cover.



PRE-PRODUCTION

Because of you, the Film Department hosted Guest Artist, Dan Philipp, an experienced gaffer from Atlanta, who brought his 3-ton grip truck to campus for a hands-on demo of the dolly and other professional equipment.

Next on the Film department's wish list: A professional dolly and a Steadicam, so that students can have access to them year-round.



QUIET ON SET!

In fall 2024, eleven juniors walked into their first Film classes as trailblazers. These students didn't just join a new department, they became part of the next generation of filmmakers, producers, and storytellers. Led by South Carolina native Kevin Human, a seasoned filmmaker with a career in Los Angeles, they began studying the language of film from the inside out.

Pictured above: One of the six cameras that you generously provided is shown on the set of the Film department's inaugural collaboration with the Drama department.



ACTION!

The Film department quickly became a vibrant, collaborative space, blending seamlessly with the school's other disciplines. Creative writers, actors, visual artists, and musicians worked alongside film students to bring original stories to life.



THE PREMIERE

In May, the lights went down in the Sakas Theater for the first-ever Film Exhibition and Student Showcase. Donors were invited to experience this remarkable moment firsthand. The exhibition featured original works by Junior Film and Senior Animation students and included a live performance and Q&A that highlighted the depth of talent and collaboration across departments. It was a powerful experience, not just for the young artists who presented their work, but for the entire Governor's School community.



A MILESTONE EVENT

On April 26, 2025, the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities celebrated 25 years of transformative arts education at its milestone Anniversary Gala at the historic Westin Poinsett in Greenville.

With over 225 arts advocates attending, the event raised over \$250,000 to support **THRIVE25**, the Governor's School Foundation's initiative to expand access and eliminate financial barriers for young artists.



Honoring Excellence

The evening, co-chaired by former Foundation board chair **Terry Grayson-Caprio** and School board member **Irv Welling**, featured the presentation of the President's Alumni Awards and the Fred Collins Luminary Awards, recognizing distinguished alumni and philanthropic leaders:

President's Distinguished Alumni Award

Carolyn Bolton (Dance '05)
Creative Director
English National Ballet's Youth Company

President's Young Alumni Award

Joshua Dantzler (Drama '17)
Employee Experience & Culture Specialist
at Amtrak; Founder of DICE Consulting

Fred Collins Luminary Award FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

Daniel-Mickel Foundation
Over \$800,000 in philanthropic support since 1995.

Fred Collins Luminary Award INDIVIDUAL PHILANTHROPY

Sue Emanuelson and Liz MacLeod
Songwriters in the Round raised over \$1.2M to date for student support.

Awards were presented by **Jimmy Gulledge of First Citizens Bank** and **Felicia Collins Robbins of the Fred Collins Foundation**, both proud Legacy Awards Partners and long-time champions of arts education.

25th Anniversary Gala



"As a member of the School Board of Directors and a parent of an alumna in dance, the entire [gala] evening was just glorious and created meaningful connections for the School. Seeing our daughter reconnect so deeply with a fellow alumna after eight years apart is a powerful testament to the lifelong bonds and lasting impact of the Governor's School community."

— Kim Lee
School Board Member

THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SPONSORS



Every milestone seen below is possible because of **you**. Since 1985—before the school had a campus—your support has powered the Foundation's work, from summer programs to **25 years** of excellence on campus.

- 1999**
Foundation supported the grand opening of the residential high school in Greenville.
- 2000s**
Foundation granted approximately \$500,000 annually to support all arts departments, expand financial assistance for students, and fund early equipment purchases that shaped the school's growth.
- 2011**
Foundation presented the first-ever President's Alumni Award at the Gala.

- 2019**
Foundation funded expansion of outreach efforts to underserved communities statewide.
- 2020-2023**
Emergency aid and flexible donor support kept students learning through COVID.
- 2024**
THRIVE25 campaign launched to eliminate financial barriers for all students.
- 2025**
Gala raised \$250,000+ for need-based support, arts programming, and outreach initiatives.



YOUR IMPACT

Removing Barriers Access & Affordability

One of the most important parts of our mission at the Foundation is to remove barriers so talented young artists can attend the Governor's School, participate fully, and confidently pursue their dreams. Tuition, room, and board are covered, but many students still face financial hurdles that can keep them from fully embracing this life-changing opportunity. For example, the \$3,900 meal plan fee in the 2024-2025 school year was out of reach for many families, but **thanks to your generosity**, we can ensure no student has to turn down their place due to financial hardship.

BECAUSE OF YOU,
THEY DON'T HAVE TO SAY "NO."

"Thank you so much for your support.
Many students depend on you and are very grateful.
It's such a great opportunity to study at the Governor's
School with like-minded people."

— *Current Govie*

This year, your gifts supported:

- Meal plans for **1** in **3** high school and **1** in **4** summer students.
- Travel, hotel, and flights for four drama students to attend college auditions in Chicago.
- Headshots for students who couldn't afford them.
- Sheet music for music students who needed it.





YOUR SUPPORT REMOVES
FINANCIAL ROADBLOCKS
SO TALENTED YOUNG
ARTISTS CAN SAY "YES"
TO THEIR DREAMS.

**Meal Plan
Cost Per Student
\$3,900**

Student Need Increase
from 2023-24
27%

Students Receiving Support

32% HIGH SCHOOL	24% SUMMER
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Outreach Statewide Impact, One County at a Time

THE ARTS SHOULD REACH
EVERY CORNER OF OUR STATE.
THANKS TO YOU, THEY DO!

OUTREACH PROVIDED EXPERIENCES
THAT ENRICHED THE LIVES OF:

159,190 STUDENTS + 6,275 ADULTS =
165,465 TOTAL PEOPLE

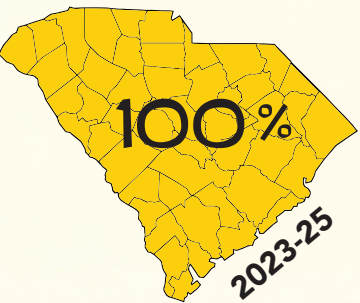
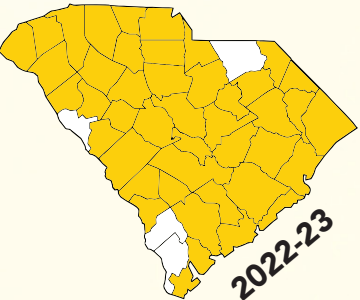
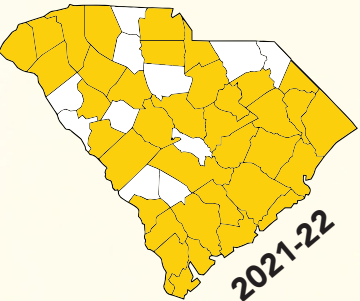
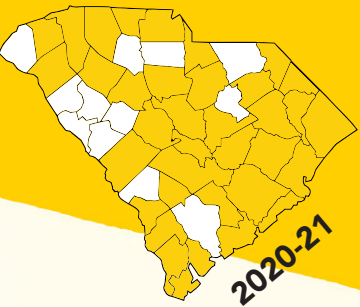
For the second year in a row, Outreach programs reached **all 46 counties**. Your gifts help cover **40%** of Outreach's annual budget, funding programs that develop community partnerships, bring students to our campus for field trips, support arts learning in schools, libraries and afterschool clubs, and offer teachers free, high quality arts-based professional development.

Your support ensures that South Carolina communities have access to:

- Community Drum Circles
 - Visual Arts Activities
 - Monthly Lesson Plans
 - Technology
 - Teacher Training
- Afterschool + Summer Arts Experiences
 - Bus Parking for Field Trips to the Governor's School campus

"The Governor's School Foundation provides crucial support in our efforts to be a statewide resource. Thanks to their partnership, we can reach students and teachers regardless of location, prior experience, or financial means."

— *Carol Baker*
Director of Outreach



THE SCHOOL'S 5-YEAR OUTREACH



The Power of Guest Artists

YOUR GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION FUND THE TOOLS, TRAINING, AND REAL WORLD EXPOSURE OUR STUDENTS NEED TO TURN TALENT INTO ACHIEVEMENT.

Artistic excellence requires more than passion; it requires access to professional-grade tools, mentors, materials, and opportunities. Because of your support, the Foundation is able to ensure every art area at the Governor's School has what it needs to thrive. This year, your gifts funded everything from production materials and performance travel to national competition fees and specialized equipment.

One standout example? Our Guest Artist program. This year, **71** distinguished artists—including **15** Govie alumni—shared their expertise with students in workshops, critiques, and classroom sessions. Among them was **Rachel Inman (Visual Arts '07)**, now a Senior UX Design Manager at Google, who returned to campus to speak with students about how her creative training opened doors in corporate design.

71

distinguished guest artists.

"I support the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Foundation to respectively honor the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Founder, Virginia Uldrick, and Community Leader Betty Farr, but I especially give so that all hopeful students across the state have an opportunity to follow their art dreams and attend the school."

— M. Ellis Pearce
Community Champion



"Rachel's story helped me realize I can use my art in ways I never imagined."

— Current Govie

Behind the Scenes

While student talent takes the spotlight, the behind-the-scenes work brings every performance, concert, film, and exhibition to life. The Foundation proudly supports the Governor's School's Production Department, which collaborates with **every** arts discipline to ensure students have the sets, lighting, costumes, sound, and the support they need to shine.

This year alone, your gifts helped fund:

94 productions from full-scale plays to concerts and showcases.

362 costumes designed, sewn, altered, or repaired by hand.

Countless Hours of lighting design, stage management, and tech support.

The Production team tirelessly turns artistic visions into reality, and your support gives them the resources to do it at a professional level. Whether building a set for Drama or costuming a dance performance, your generosity makes these moments possible.

THANKS TO YOU, OUR STUDENTS ARE EXPOSED TO HIGH-QUALITY WORK THAT RIVALS COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL ARTS PROGRAMS.

"PEOPLE SEE THE FINAL PRODUCT, BUT THEY DON'T ALWAYS SEE THE TEAM BEHIND IT, AND HOW MUCH WE LEARN. IT'S LIKE BEING PART OF A PROFESSIONAL COMPANY!"

—CURRENT GOVIE



FINANCIALS

Where Your Gifts Go

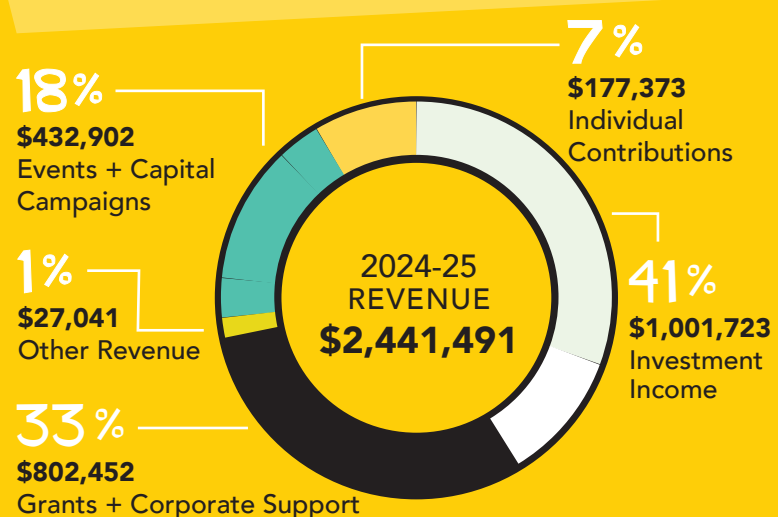
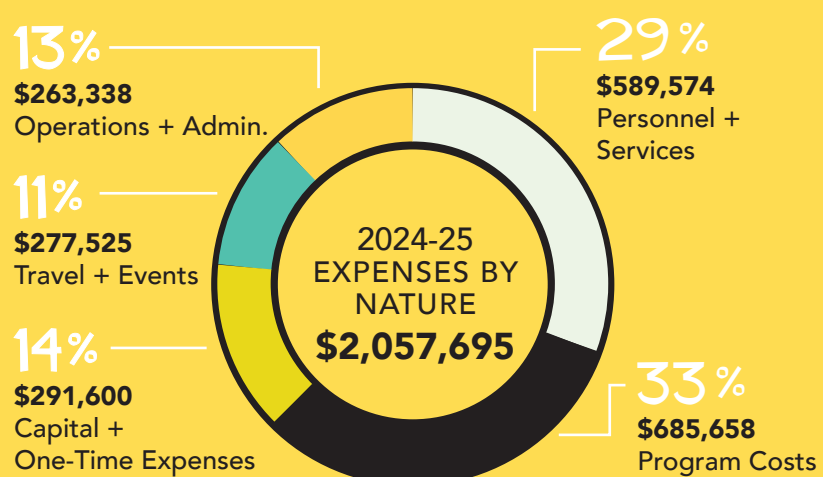
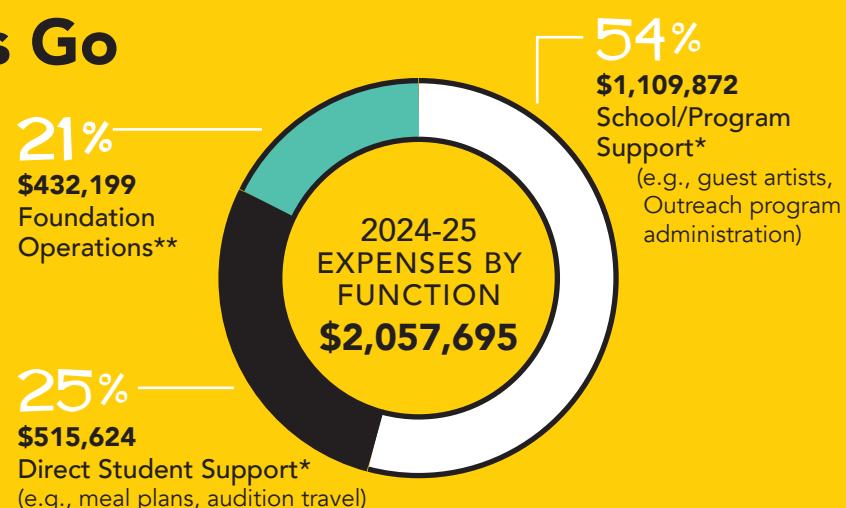
79¢
of Every Dollar
Directly Supported
Students & School
Programs

BECAUSE OF YOU...
\$1.62M
Supported
Students and
Programs

* School Program Support and Direct Student Support reflect funds granted to The Governor's School.

**Foundation Operations reflect fundraising and administrative expenses.

Non-Audited Financials as of June 30, 2025



THE HEART OF GIVING



"As an alumna of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, I received a world-class arts education that shaped my life in innumerable positive ways. By supporting the Governor's School Foundation, I ensure that young artists throughout the state have continued access to this life-changing educational experience."

— **Carly Phinizy, PhD '01**
School Board Member

First-ever Govie Give Day Marked an Exciting Milestone in Governor's School History

Within just 24 hours, alumni, families, and friends came together to champion arts education, highlighting the incredible strength and spirit of the Govie community. An impressive **42%** of all Govie Day donors **were supporting the Foundation for the very first time!**

And for the first time this year, every donor received a special Govie Giver '25 sticker in the mail — a perfect way to proudly display your support on your car, laptop, water bottle, or wherever you like to represent the Govies!

Building a Legacy for the Next 25 Years

The Foundation is laying the groundwork for a new legacy giving initiative to honor individuals who include the Governor's School Foundation in their estate plans or establish endowed funds. These visionary gifts help ensure that future generations of young artists will have the same opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive, no matter their circumstances.

If you've already included the Foundation in your estate plans—or would like to explore options—we'd love to hear from you. Your commitment today will echo for years to come, and we'd be honored to recognize your lasting impact.

Please contact Jared Martin at
Jared.Martin@gsafoundation.net.





OUR DONORS

Donors listed are those who contributed between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor list, but if we've omitted your name or made an error, please contact us at (864) 282-1570.



\$25,000+

Anonymous
Fred Collins Foundation
M. Ellis Pearce
SC Arts Commission

\$10,000-\$24,999

AVX / Kyocera Foundation
Betsy Beam &
Guy Schneggenburger + x
Lisa Bell-Dargan & Perrin Dargan
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CAPTRUST Community Foundation
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Nancy & E. Erwin Maddrey x
Diana Peck Maki & Carl Maki ^ ~ x
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Peace Center
Hilary & Lionel Rondeau ~
Schwab Charitable
The Riley Institute / Furman University



\$5,000-\$9,999

Adams Foundation of SC
Alfred Moore Foundation
Jim Allhusen
Batson Associates, Inc.
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Comporium
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Milliken & Company
National Philanthropic Trust
Lynn Parrott
Suzy & Chad Prosser ^ x
ScanSource
Southern First Bank
The Capital Corporation
United Community Bank

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Katherine Beben ~
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Gayle Brown
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\$1-\$999

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Lisa Dunlevy ~
Timothy Dunlevy ~
Ashley Edwards ~
Lee Edwards * ~
Karen Eller

"Your donations are the backbone to this school and let me do what I love."

—Current Govie

Jane & Mark Taylor ^
Susan & Alec Taylor
The Daniel-Mickel Foundation
The Law Office of Steven Edward Buckingham

Kaitlyn Blair *
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LuAnne Born

* ALUM | ^ CURRENT FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER | + STAFF/FACULTY | ~ PARENT/GRANDPARENT | X GALA HOST

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