

Innovative School Is A Training Ground For Artists

(NAPS)—Art classes have slowly but steadily all but disappeared from public schools over the years. Lack of funding has been the culprit, but educators tend to agree that the arts play a crucial role in the academic and creative development of our children.

One public school in Greenville, South Carolina is embracing a different model and provides a haven for young artists from across the state to discover, develop and hone their talents. The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers prepro-



Young artists can get the education they need at a special public school.

fessional training to its students in the areas of creative writing, dance, drama, music, and visual arts. As a public, residential high school serving juniors and seniors, it helps students refine their talents in a master-apprentice community while receiving nationally recognized academic education.

The Governor's School also serves as a resource to all teachers and students in South Carolina, offering comprehensive outreach programs designed to bring together artists, educators, community organizations, and schools.

The school is supported by its own foundation—The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Foundation—by raising revenues to bridge the gap between funds provided to the school through government appropriation and the actual cost of the educational opportunities the school provides to its students.

This extraordinary school recently captured the attention of Ovation TV, a cable and digital channel that is dedicated to the arts. Ovation and local cable provider Spectrum acknowledged the school's contributions to the community and innovative approach to arts education and skills development with a \$10,000 award via its Stand for the Arts arts advocacy initiative. SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' success provides a great lesson for communities across the country looking to support the arts and encourage the creative development of their youth.