



JANET BARRESI  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Janet C. Barresi *JCB*

**DATE:** January 31, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Recognition of Ridge Howell

State Superintendent Janet Barresi and the State Board of Education recognize and commend Ridge Howell, a Checotah High School senior and president of his local FFA chapter, for being a 2012 White House Champion of Change. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of Public Engagement for the White House recognized Howell and 11 other FFA and 4-H members from across the United States, and their mentors, at a ceremony at the White House last fall. The students were recognized for the exceptional ways they are helping their communities. The White House Champions of Change program recognizes individuals across the country whose projects positively impact their communities. Howell was recognized for aiding senior citizens in his community. As part of his efforts, Howell has volunteered to help at the annual senior citizens' prom hosted by the Checotah High School Student Council. He also helped create and provides labor for an FFA lawn-mowing program that benefits senior citizens. In addition, he works in a community garden and delivers the produce to seniors several times a week. Howell will be recognized along with his agriculture education instructor Jason McPeak.

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