



**JANET BARRESI**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Janet Barresi

**DATE:** September 11, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Recognition of Norman High School and Bartlesville High School on being named Top 40 Debate High Schools in America by the National Forensic League

State Superintendent Janet Barresi and the State Board of Education recognize and commend Nathan Thompson, senior at Norman High School, Nicky Halterman, junior at Norman High School, Kasey Harrison, Speech and Debate coach at Norman High School, Lawrence Zhou, senior at Bartlesville High School and Linda Shipley, Speech and Debate coach at Bartlesville High School.

The National Forensic League recognizes participation and progress in middle and high school public speaking and debating activities as a means to meet Common Core State Standards in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The League empowers educators with resources, fostering in students the ability to think critically, research persistently, articulate clearly, and lead ethically in a democratic society. Since 1925, nearly 1.4 million students have participated in the League, with more than 120,000 active members in nearly 3,000 schools.

The National Forensic League National Speech & Debate Tournament is the largest academic competition in the world. To attend, students must place among the top competitors at one of 109 District Tournaments. Qualifiers compete for more than \$200,000 in college scholarships in one of 11 main events—Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate-House, Congressional Debate-Senate, Original Oratory, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation—as well as seven consolation and supplemental events.

National rankings in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate place Lawrence Zhou at 6<sup>th</sup>, Nicky Halterman at 15<sup>th</sup> and Nathan Thompson at 24<sup>th</sup>.

JCB/ey