



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: May 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Approval of *Introduction to Agricultural Communications*

State Board approval is being requested to allow the elective course entitled *Introduction to Agricultural Communications* fulfill the speech credit required by 70 O.S. § 11-103.6. The statute sets forth college preparatory/work ready high school graduation requirements implemented by ACE (Achieving Classroom Excellence) and requires all students to obtain a fine arts or speech credit to satisfy one unit or set of competencies required for graduation. The *Introduction to Agricultural Communications* course requirements were compared to a variety of *Introduction to Speech* course requirements currently offered, and the course meets or exceeds the course elements of those introductory speech classes. There are six standards concerning speaking and listening in the Common Core for State Standards and agricultural majors should be allowed to receive credit for mastering elements of these standards within this course.

Because the course is an elective, an agricultural education instructor with agricultural education certification is qualified to teach the course. Upon class enrollment, students that are agricultural majors will specify whether the course will be used for an agricultural or speech elective credit. Approval of this request will:

Allow students majoring in agriculture to enroll in the course, *Communications in Agriculture*, and use the earned credit to satisfy the fine arts or speech competency required by law. A student may only earn one credit for this course; thus, the student must decide at enrollment whether to use the credit to satisfy the fine arts requirement or to use the credit as an agricultural credit. Because the course is an elective, an agricultural education instructor with agricultural education certification is qualified to teach the course. This fine arts elective credit for the course *Communications in Agriculture/Introduction to Agricultural Communications* begins with the 2012-13 school year.

JCB:prh