

Distinguished Alumnus 2014

Jim Reese  
Class of 1978

Jim Reese served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives (1987-2001) before his selection as Oklahoma State Executive Director for the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Gov. Mary Fallin appointed him as the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture in 2011, serving as her chief advisor on policy development and implementation related to agriculture, food and forestry. Mr. Reese received the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Meritorious Service Award, the Oklahoma Farmer's Union Outstanding Service Award and recognition or awards from the Oklahoma Institute of Child Advocacy, the National Federation of Independent Business, Kay Electric, the Oklahoma School Administrators and the Oklahoma State Troopers. He earned an Associate of Science degree in Drafting and Design from Northern Oklahoma College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University and attended the USDA Supervisory Academy at Texas A&M. The former board member at Leadership Oklahoma and chairman of the board at Nardin First United Methodist Church has owned and operated Jim Reese Farms near Nardin since 1978.