



## Overview and Goals for ACT State Organizations

ACT State Organizations is comprised of thousands of education and workforce professionals working together to advance college and career readiness for all. ACT State Organizations exist in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The United States is split into five regional districts. Membership in the organizations is completely voluntary, and members are experts in their fields and champions for ACT. Members believe in the ACT mission of helping people achieve education and workplace success and have the desire to help others act on this philosophy.

The ACT State Organizations Steering Committee develops a strategic focus for the ACT State Organizations. The Steering Committee is comprised of: the ACT senior vice president of Public Affairs; ACT senior director of State Organizations; ACT district managers; and three council members from each State Organization district. The three elected council members from each district must represent K-12, postsecondary, and workforce development.

Each ACT State Organization has a Council serving in a leadership capacity for the State organization and as a liaison between the State Organization and ACT. Councils work closely with ACT to determine activities and initiatives in the state that support the ACT mission.

These goals were developed by the Steering Committee in collaboration with Council leaders and ACT. These goals demonstrate the vision of ACT State Organizations: to eliminate the skills gap by connecting the outcomes of K-12 and postsecondary to career opportunities. Councils should use these goals to meet the needs of their state and ACT State Organizations. ACT State Organization activities and initiatives may extend beyond the listed activity ideas.

### ACT Mission

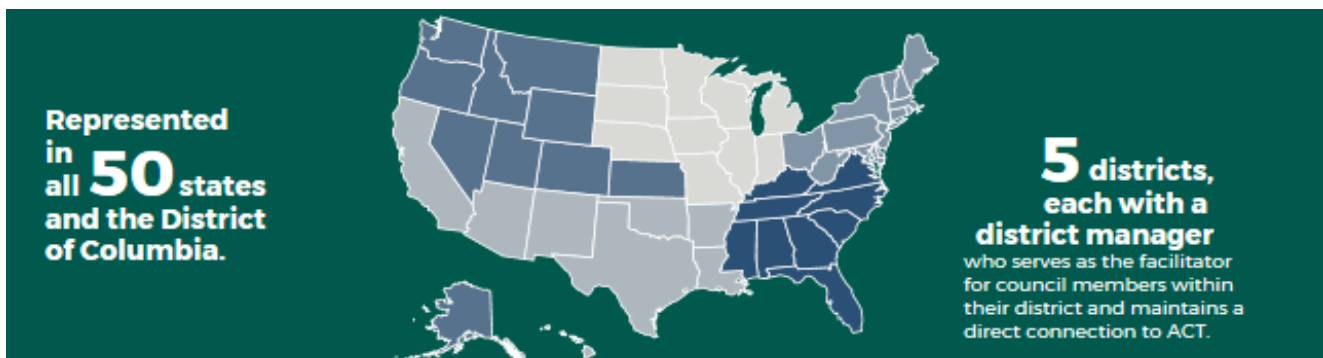
Helping people achieve education and workplace success

### ACT State Organizations Mission

Building a community of educators and workplace professionals  
to help people achieve education and workplace success

### Vision

Eliminate the skills gap by connecting the outcomes of K-12  
and postsecondary to career opportunities



## Goals for ACT State Organizations

### **GOAL 1 Develop, implement, and increase awareness of academic and career development**

#### **Objective A Identify and promote best practices associated with career exploration and attainment**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Promote the integration of ACT Work Ready Community partners and local businesses into learning events, council meetings, and conference calls
- Integrate labor projections to inform current practices as well as predict those needed in coming years
- Promote, advocate for, and inform the creation of ACT media packages to advance career awareness across the state
- Town Hall
- Freshman Focus
- Reality Fair
- ICAP (individualized graduation plans featuring a career focus)
- Job shadows, internships, externships

#### **Objective B Engage postsecondary institutions (i.e. Career Centers and Career Services) and business with secondary schools to promote awareness of career options**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Engage postsecondary institutions to provide mentoring opportunities to secondary schools
- Engage postsecondary institutions/employers to serve as ambassadors of career opportunities
- Integrate service learning from postsecondary institutions/businesses into secondary school events that promote career awareness and exploration

#### **Objective C Increase the number of workforce representatives on the ACT State Organizations Councils and general membership**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Create campaign to recruit workforce representatives
- Promote and inform creation of ACT media package to advocate for partnership with workforce representatives
- Involve ACT Work Ready Community partners with ACT State Organization work

#### **Objective D Engage local employers to interact with secondary and postsecondary institutions through activities**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Invite local employers to a schoolwide career day
- Encourage local institutions to visit prominent local businesses to determine needs

- Urge ACT Work Ready Community Partners to connect with secondary and postsecondary institutions

## **GOAL 2 Identify innovative solutions that advance successful collaborations between academic and workforce development efforts**

### **Objective A Compile and promote best practices that can be replicated**

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Integrate successful ACT Work Ready Community partners and local businesses into learning events, council meetings, and conference calls
- Identify successful examples of workforce development that can be applied elsewhere

### **Objective B Identify a common language for secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and workforce**

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Foster a partnership with secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and employers to identify a common language for workplace success skills, soft skills, career paths, credentials, etc.
- Publish a common language guide for workplace success skills, soft skills, career path, credentials, etc.

### **Objective C Enlist business partners to identify needs in the labor market and identify solutions**

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Leverage ACT Work Ready Community partners to help identify needs specific to a state, region, and/or local area
- Propose solutions to meet identified workforce needs with a kindergarten to career continuum of representatives; communicate those ideas to a broader audience

### **Objective D Identify and teach soft skills/workplace success skills that are recognized and accepted by secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and workforce sectors**

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Articulate which skills should be taught at which levels
- Integrate soft skills in curriculum at the secondary and postsecondary level
- Partner with businesses to identify and assess which skills are lacking in the labor market
- Utilize resources from national partners to identify labor needs and increase awareness across the kindergarten to career continuum
- Promote community organization partnerships (e.g. Junior Achievement) to teach young students about careers and career skills

## **GOAL 3 Advocate for policies to support and address academic and workforce**

### **Issues**

#### **Objective A Increase support for dual enrollment programs through policy and/or initiatives**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Advocate for local/state legislation and/or policy changes that promote and/or finance dual enrollment opportunities
- Assist secondary and postsecondary institutions in creating dual enrollment programs that address business needs within the local area
- Assess obstacles and provide potential solutions addressing access to and needs of dual enrollment programs

#### **Objective B Advocate for credentialed career exploration classes in secondary schools, leveraging community employers where possible**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Promote the creation of a credit-bearing career exploration class for high school
- Support the integration of career exploration into existing curriculum
- Engage local business and industries in either an on-site visit to the business or bringing business representatives to the school

#### **Objective C Support the establishment of vocational/technical programs between secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and community employers**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Create a partnership between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions and ask representatives to meet at least quarterly to assess needs, program processes, etc.
- Promote and advocate for the creation of vocational/technical program that address the business needs specific to the area
- Ensure vocational/technical programs bear a workplace credential or transferable skill

#### **Objective D Identify a portable, stackable, transferable credential that addresses workplace success skills**

*Activity Ideas:*

- Engage ACT Work Ready Communities and their partners to promote the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™ (ACT NCRC®) as a stackable credential
- Advocate, through articulation agreements, a stackable, transferable credential of basic workplace skills