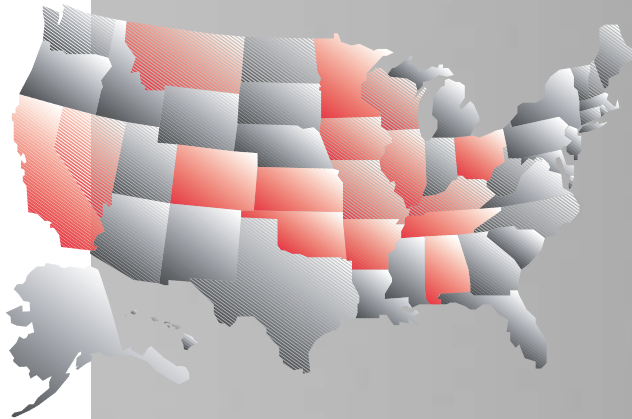


ACT State Organizations

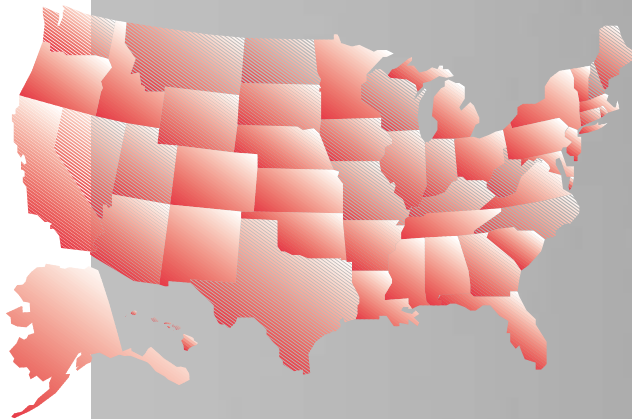
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959



ACT

2009



ACT[®]



ILLINOIS

ACT[®]

FIFTY YEARS 1959 | 2009

“Building a community of educators helping people achieve education and workplace success.”

This is the mission statement of the ACT State Organizations, which have been crucial to ACT’s growth as a provider of solutions that promote education and workforce readiness for individuals around the world. ACT’s management and staff have relied heavily on the network for advice both for ensuring that ACT’s programs and services remain relevant to the needs of students, schools, and colleges, and for designing new services responsive to the ever-changing challenges faced by those charged with preparing the nation’s people for education and workplace success.

The ACT State Organizations, consisting primarily of individuals in secondary and postsecondary institutions, have been in existence since ACT was founded in 1959. The network is widely credited with providing an effective communication channel for ensuring the relevance of ACT’s services.

Building a Network

The State Organizations were at the heart of ACT’s initial organizational structure. In 1959, ACT founders E.F. Lindquist and Ted McCarrel began organizing their professional colleagues—full-time employees of colleges and universities—into a network that would lay the foundation for the State Organizations.

The 16 states that joined in 1959 were Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. By the end of the school year, they were joined by Alaska, Idaho, and North Dakota.

The first ACT state coordinators were paid advisors who had direct involvement with ACT’s organization and development. Among their duties were communicating with high schools and colleges in their states; distributing materials such as announcements, publicity pieces, and registration forms to secondary and postsecondary institutions in their states; securing test facilities; handling registration forms; collecting fees; and forwarding reports to high schools and colleges. They also organized state advisory committees that eventually evolved into the State Organizations.

Upon ACT’s founding, McCarrel appointed regional directors to help State Organizations promote the ACT® test. By the time the first ACT test administration occurred in November 1959, the company had successfully recruited colleges and universities across the country to use ACT scores for college admissions.

In 1961, state coordinators became unpaid volunteers, serving as the governing body of and providing guidance to the organization. In subsequent years, steering committees were created. The role of the state coordinator evolved into that of state representative, a position that was either elected or appointed. When ACT established a 15-member Board of Trustees in 1965, state representatives filled eight of the seats,

giving State Organizations representation on the board. Also, new guidelines were created to determine how states could participate in the State Organization network.

Broadening the Scope

In July 2003, a task force was established to redefine the role of the State Organizations following changes to ACT’s governing structure. Prior to that time, many of the State Organizations worked primarily with postsecondary institutions. While ACT’s college admissions and placement exam continued to gain in popularity, ACT had expanded its scope to incorporate new audiences, including secondary educators, workforce professionals, and government administrators at the state and federal levels. As a result, ACT needed to broaden the composition and the role of its State Organizations. In 2004, the ACT Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of the task force. They included:

- Adopting a common statement of purpose for the State Organizations
- Developing and implementing an annual plan of work based on strategic objectives
- Adopting a set of principles addressing the organizational structure and membership of the State Organizations
- Updating the role of the state representative to emphasize the position’s leadership responsibilities
- Designing and implementing a State Organization leadership development program

State Organizations Today

As of ACT’s 50th anniversary in 2009, all 50 states are represented through the 44 ACT state and regional organizations across the country. These organizations have more than 8,000 members, and nearly 6,000 individuals attend the annual conferences. Generally, ACT State Organizations are led by a Council and an Executive Committee consisting of a State Representative, Chairperson, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, and Secretary.

Today, members of State Organizations provide advice and support to ACT. Their duties include:

- Serving as a communication link between educational institutions and agencies and ACT
- Coordinating and facilitating statewide professional development activities related to ACT’s mission
- Providing feedback on the utility and effectiveness of ACT programs and services
- Assisting ACT regional staff in identifying state service needs
- Providing input and advice on future ACT programs and services
- Identifying exemplary applications of ACT programs and services

ACT STATE ORGANIZATIONS

MISSION

Building a community of educators helping people achieve education and workforce success

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

ACT state organizations support and promote informed decision making by:

- Individuals engaged in education and career planning, preparation for further education and work, and lifelong learning
- Parties who are making or influencing decisions by those individuals

The Illinois ACT State Organization

In 1959, Illinois became one of the first states to create an ACT State Organization. The Illinois College Testing Commission, organized that year, became the designated Illinois ACT State Organization, representing all postsecondary and secondary institutions in Illinois.

Harold E. Temmer was appointed by ACT cofounder McCarrel as the first state representative for the Illinois ACT State Organization. Temmer worked with the Iowa College Testing Program—which became the model for the ACT test—and helped Illinois adopt the ACT as its official college admissions exam in 1959. That same year, the Illinois State Scholarship Commission adopted the ACT as the testing tool for the state’s scholarship program.

Today, the Illinois ACT State Organization sponsors an annual conference that draws more than 600 participants from across the state and has a membership of nearly 750 secondary and postsecondary educators and administrators. It presents the ACT 36er Award to high schools in the state that have one or more students who achieved a top score of 36. In addition, it honors middle and high schools with the Red Quill Award for schools that have done an exceptional job of utilizing, implementing, and integrating any of ACT’s college readiness assessments with students, faculty, and parents. Illinois adopted the ACT and WorkKeys® as part of its statewide assessment, the Prairie State Achievement Exam (2001), followed by statewide use of EXPLORE® and PLAN® (2006). In addition, nearly every community college in the state uses COMPASS® as its placement exam for incoming students, including the City Colleges of Chicago.

Illinois ACT State Representatives

- 1959–1965 Harold E. Temmer, Associate Dean of Admissions and Records, University of Illinois
- 1966–1973 Harold J. White, Executive Secretary, Illinois College Testing Commission
- 1973–1978 Jack D. McFadden, Community College Relations and Director, Admissions and Records, Northern Illinois University
- 1978–1980 James G. Pappas, Director of Admissions and Assistant Professor of Psychology, Chicago State University
- 1981–1982 Carroll J. Peterson, Dean of Students and Professor of Biology, North Park College
- 1982–1989 Robert M. Bruker, Assistant to the President for Governmental and Community Relations, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- 1989–1999 Patricia E. Askew, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 1999–2007 Steven L. Adams, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Academic Services, Illinois State University
- 2007–2009 Robert P. Murray, Dean of Enrollment Services, Illinois Wesleyan University

State Representatives are elected by the members of the State Organization to serve a term of three years, serving no more than three full consecutive terms.

State Representatives’ duties and responsibilities include:

- Serving as a voting member of the Executive Committee and the Council
- Representing the views and interests of members of the State Organization
- Facilitating communications between ACT staff in its regional and national office and the members of the State Organization
- Reporting to the members of the State Organization on significant developments regarding ACT programs and services



Illinois Colleges and Universities That Have Accepted the ACT Since 1959

Benedictine University
Blackburn College
Black Hawk College
Bradley University
City Colleges of Chicago–Harry S. Truman College
City Colleges of Chicago–Kennedy-King College
City Colleges of Chicago–Malcolm X College
City Colleges of Chicago–Olive-Harvey College
City Colleges of Chicago–Wilbur Wright College
College of DuPage
Danville Area Community College
DePaul University
Eastern Illinois University
Elgin Community College
Eureka College
Galesburg Cottage Hospital
Greenville College
Illinois College
Illinois State University
Illinois Valley Community College
Illinois Wesleyan University
Kaskaskia College
Kendall College

Lincoln College
Loyola University Chicago
McKendree University
Morton College
North Central College
Northern Illinois University
North Park University
Olivet Nazarene University
Prairie State College
Principia College
Quincy University
Rend Lake College
Saint Louis University
Shimer College
Southern Illinois University–Alton
Southern Illinois University–Carbondale
South Suburban College
Southwestern Illinois College
Springfield College in Illinois
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of St. Francis
Western Illinois University

Current Illinois ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Bob Murray
Dean of Enrollment Management
Illinois Wesleyan University

Chairperson

Toby Brown
Counselor
Southwestern Illinois College

Chair-Elect

Becky McCabe
Area Assistant Superintendent
Community Unit School District 303

Past Chair

Lazaro Lopez
Principal
Wheeling High School

Secretary

Todd Burrell
Director of Admissions
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Ex-Officio

Megan Forness
PSAE Assessment Consultant
Illinois State Board of Education

Ex-Officio

Joyce Zurkowski
Assessment Division Administrator
Illinois State Board of Education

ACT Liaison

April Hansen
Director
Postsecondary Services
ACT Midwest Region

ACT Liaison

George Schlott
Senior Consultant
Elementary/Secondary Services
ACT Midwest Region

Other Members

Peg Bartz
Assessment Specialist, Administrator
Chicago Public Schools

Scott Belobrajdic
Assistant Vice Chancellor for
Enrollment Management
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Karen Brown
Curriculum Director
Nazareth Academy

Brian Church
Guidance Director
Princeton High School

Chyriell Drain-Hill
Director of Guidance
Belleville East High School

Bruce Elser
Math Teacher and Adjunct Counselor
Southwestern Illinois College
O'Fallon Township High School District
No. 203

Gwen Kanelos
Assistant Vice President for
Enrollment Services
Concordia University Chicago–River Forest

Brenda Major
Director of Admissions
Eastern Illinois University

Susan Morrison
Special Assistant to the Superintendent
Superintendent's Office
Illinois State Board of Education

Reo Wilhour
Associate Director
Admissions and Records
Parkland College

*As of May 2009

