

“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

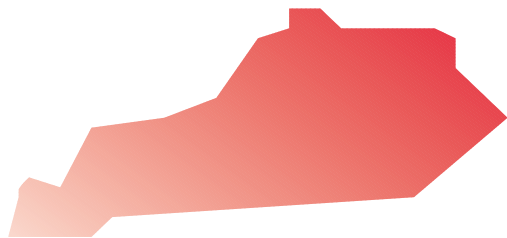
ACT state organizations support and promote informed decision making by:

- 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 Kentucky ACT State Organization

Today, the Kentucky ACT Council comprises about 30 members, and the Kentucky ACT State Organization currently boasts a membership of more than 200 individuals. The State Organization held its first Kentucky Educational Forum in November 2008 with nearly 300 attendees. Plans are already under way for the second Kentucky Education Forum in fall 2009.

Kentucky is the only state in the nation that provides EXPLORE®, PLAN®, the ACT, and WorkKeys® to its students through legislation passed by the General Assembly. Hundreds of thousands of Kentucky students have benefited from this groundbreaking initiative.



Past Kentucky ACT State Representatives

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| 1959–1967 | Charles Elton, Dean of Admissions and Registrar, University of Kentucky |
| 1968–1970 | Elbert Ockerman, Dean of Admissions and Registrar, University of Kentucky |
| 1971–1974 | Wilson Gantt, Dean of Admissions and Registrar, Murray State University |
| 1974–1983 | Elbert Ockerman, Dean of Admissions and Registrar, University of Kentucky |
| 1983–1986 | Harry Snyder, Executive Director, Kentucky Council on Higher Education |
| 1986–1989 | Gary Breegle, Director for Planning and Research, Kentucky Council on Higher Education |
| 1989–1991 | Gary Cox, Executive Director, Kentucky Council on Higher Education |
| 1991–1993 | Brian Daly, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability, Kentucky Council on Higher Education |
| 1993–1997 | Martha Smith, Project Director for Student Counseling Services, Kentucky Council on Higher Education |
| 1997–2001 | Roger Sugarman, Associate, Academic Affairs, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education |
| 2001–2002 | Patrick Kelly, Senior Associate, Information and Research, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education |
| 2002–2004 | Christina Whitfield, Senior Associate, Research, Council on Postsecondary Education |
| 2005–2008 | James Applegate, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education |

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

Kentucky Colleges and Universities That Have Accepted the ACT Since 1959

Bellarmine University
Berea College
Campbellsville University
Eastern Kentucky University
Georgetown College
Lindsey Wilson College
Morehead State University
Thomas More College
University of Kentucky
West Kentucky Community and Technical College
Western Kentucky University

Current Kentucky ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Jenny Sawyer
Executive Director, Admissions
University of Louisville

Chairperson

E. Dale Brown
Superintendent
Warren County School District

Chair-Elect

Carol Montgomery
Director of School Programs and Services
Jefferson County Public Schools

Secretary

Kevin Beardmore
Dean of Enrollment
Owensboro Community and Technical
College

ACT Liaison

Jim White
Assistant Vice President and Regional
Manager
ACT Southeast Region

Melanie Barrett
WIA Coordinator
Christian County High School

Lawrence Bowman
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Covington

Dale Buckles
Dean of Student Affairs
Elizabethtown Community and Technical
College

James Burrell
Director of Admissions
Kentucky State University

Diane Calhoun-French
Provost and Vice President for Academic
Affairs
Jefferson Community and Technical College

Connie Callahan
President
Kentucky Counseling Association

Gary Cox
President
Association of Independent Kentucky
Colleges and Universities

Elaine Farris
Superintendent
Shelby County Public Schools

Michael Flynn
YSC Coordinator
Estill County Middle School

Angela Griffin-Jones
Vice President, Enrollment Management
Thomas More College

Sarah Hawker
Vice President
Kentucky Adult Education

Buford Howard
Dean of Academic Affairs
Somerset Community College

Dean Kahler
Director of Admissions
Western Kentucky University

Roger L. Marcum
Superintendent
Marion County Public Schools

Twyla Messer
Principal
Beckham Bates Elementary School

Christine Powell
Policy Advisor
Office of Assessment and Accountability
Kentucky Department of Education

Dwayne Roberts
Interim Principal
Lassiter Middle School

Kathy Smoot
Provost and Vice President of Academic
Affairs
Hazard Community and Technical College

Matthew Webster
Vice President, Enrollment Management
Thomas More College

George Wilson
Superintendent
Monroe County School District

Donald Witt
Assistant Provost
University of Kentucky

* As of May 2009

