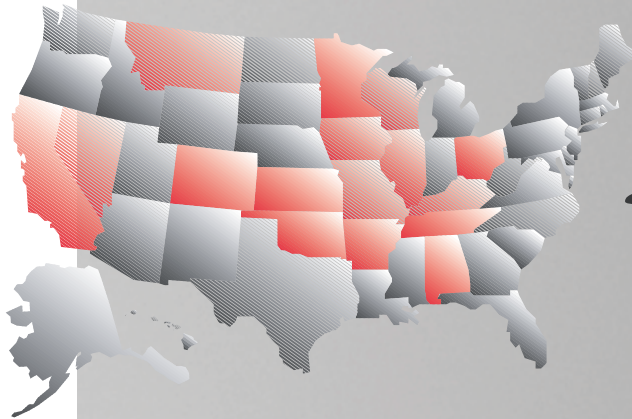


ACT State Organizations

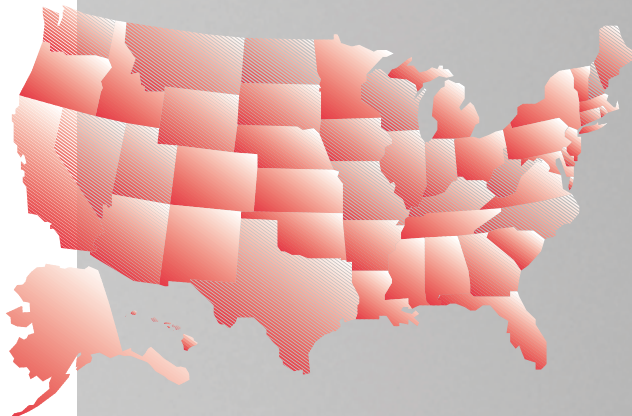
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959

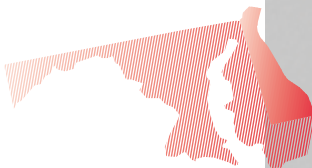


ACT

2009



ACT®



MARYLAND, DELAWARE,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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 Maryland/Delaware/District of Columbia ACT States Organization

In 1959, the year of ACT's founding, the University of Maryland began work with ACT about the Maryland State Scholarship Program. The program used ACT test data to determine awards. Around that time, the university also founded an ACT Advisory Committee. ACT cofounder McCarrel eventually appointed George Marx of the University of Maryland as the first state coordinator for the region. Under Marx's urging, a state advisory committee was formed in 1963.

In fall 2008, the state of Delaware was welcomed into the existing Maryland/District of Columbia ACT States Organization. Today, the new Maryland/Delaware/District of Columbia ACT States Organization Council is in the process of reorganization. Fourteen members have already committed to the council. Once council positions are filled, the leadership will turn its attention to inviting all schools and colleges to participate as members of the State Organization.

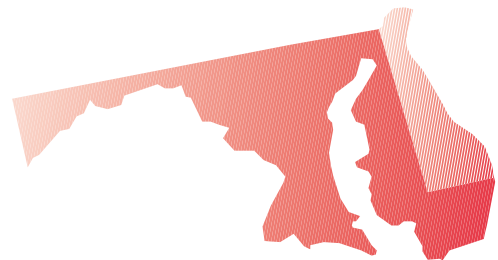
Past Maryland/Delaware/District of Columbia ACT States Representatives

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1961–1974 | George Marx, Professor and Head of Counseling and Personnel Services, University of Maryland |
| 1974–1983 | Jane Howard-Jasper, Assistant Executive Director, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators |
| 1983–1988 | Noreen Lyle, Provost for Continuing Education, Montgomery College |
| 1988–1995 | L. Richard Haney, Dean of Student Development, Frederick Community College |
| 1995–2008 | Thomas Bowling, Vice President for Student and Educational Services, Frostburg State 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



Current Maryland/Delaware/District of Columbia ACT States Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Dr. Rosemary Thomas
Vice President of University
Advancement and Executive Director
of the Salisbury University Foundation
Salisbury University

Joseph A. Monte
Counselor
Albert Einstein High School

Dr. Ronald A. Peiffer
Deputy State Superintendent
Maryland State Department of Education

Robert Freeman
Program Coordinator
Delaware Technical and Community
College

Maryland

Wray N. Blair
Associate Vice President for Enrollment
Management
Frostburg State University

Tara Campbell
College and Career Advisor
La Plata High School

Jennifer L. Evans
Department Chairperson, Counseling
Broadneck High School

Shannon Gundy
Director, Undergraduate Admissions
University of Maryland

Stephen B. Latta
Dean of Admissions
U.S. Naval Academy

Nancy Rhodes
Director, Office of College Advising
Baltimore City College

Lisa Romano
Assistant Vice President
University of Maryland–University
College

Delaware

Michael Firch
Counselor
Milford Middle School

Lawrence Fletcher
Director of Guidance
Salesianum School

District of Columbia

Sister Helen McCulloch, RSCJ
Counseling Chair and Director of College
Counseling
Archbishop Carroll High School

* As of May 2009

