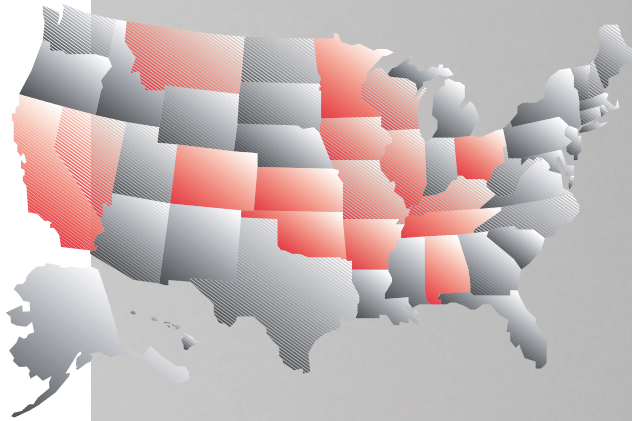


# ACT State Organizations

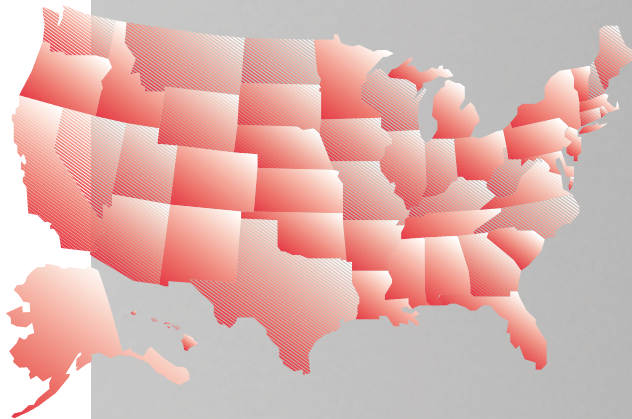
*Fifty Years—1959 to 2009*

1959



ACT

2009



ACT®



MICHIGAN

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 Michigan ACT State Organization

In 1965, the Michigan State Scholarship Program adopted the ACT exam as its testing instrument, taking the exam statewide. The Michigan ACT State Organization became a reality in 1967, adopting bylaws and electing its first state representative.

Today, the Michigan ACT State Organization sponsors an annual conference that draws more than 200 participants from across the state and has a membership of more than 550 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. In 2005, Michigan adopted the ACT and WorkKeys®, which together comprise a significant portion of its statewide assessment, the Michigan Merit Exam.

## Past Michigan ACT State Representatives

1967–1969	Ronald Denison, Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies, Olivet College
1970–1974	Austin Buchanan, Director of Admissions, Central Michigan University
1975	Russell Gabier, Director of Admissions, Western Michigan University
1976–1988	Lowell Kafer, Professor of Education and Director of Laboratory Field Experiences, Northern Michigan University
1988–1993	Jerry Rose, Director of Admissions and Scholarships, Oakland University
1993–1999	William Turner, Consultant for Enrollment Management, Michigan State University
1999–2006	James Dwyer, Assistant Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management, Saginaw Valley State University
2006–2009	Dale Kuiper, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Calvin College

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 Michigan ACT State Organization Council\*

### *ACT State Representative*

Dale Kuiper  
Director of Admissions and Financial Aid  
Calvin College

### *Chairperson*

Stacy Penkala  
Associate Director of College Placement  
Detroit County Day School

### *Chair-Elect*

Erica Sanders  
Interim Director of Recruitment  
University of Michigan

### *Past Chair*

Doug Kellar  
Interim Vice President for Enrollment  
Albion College

### *Secretary*

Anne Wohlfert  
Director, Office of Scholarships and  
Grants  
Michigan Department of Treasury

### *ACT Liaison*

John Carroll  
Senior Consultant  
Elementary/Secondary Services  
ACT Midwest Region

Jim Cotter  
Director of Admissions  
Michigan State University

Ron Koehler  
Assistant Superintendent  
Kent ISD

Diane Patrick  
Assistant Dean of Enrollment Services  
Grand Rapids Community College

Lynn Thompson  
Counselor  
Grayling High School

Dan Toland  
Dean of Admissions  
Northwood University

Jennifer Verleger  
Assistant Principal  
Mount Pleasant High School

Betty Wagner  
Director of Admissions  
Central Michigan University

Mark A. Williams  
Principal  
Standish–Sterling Central High School

\*As of May 2009

