



*“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

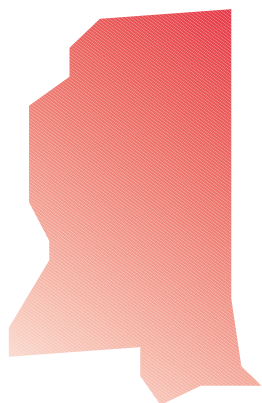
ACT state organizations support and promote informed decision making by:

- 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 Mississippi ACT State Organization

C.P. Yerby of the University of Mississippi was an early leader in introducing ACT throughout the state. With the further support of E.R. Jobe of the Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi created an ACT State Organization.

Today, the Mississippi ACT State Organization continues to be active. In March 2009, the Mississippi ACT State Organization sponsored a successful Mississippi College Readiness Summit with approximately 230 participants from across the state. Membership is growing and currently comprises about 140 secondary and postsecondary educators and administrators. Four regional forums are set to be held in September 2009 to continue the work begun with the Mississippi College Readiness Summit. A second summit will be held in November 2010. Approximately 92% of Mississippi graduates take the ACT. EXPLORE® and PLAN® are included in the GEAR UP Mississippi grant, and WorkKeys® is widely used in Mississippi to document workplace skills.



## Past Mississippi ACT State Representatives

1961–1966	Woodrow Clark, Director of Institutional Research, Mississippi College
1967–1968	E.R. Jobe, Executive Secretary, Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Learning
1969–1972	Woodrow Clark, Director of Institutional Research, Mississippi College
1972–1978	Mac McRaney, Dean of Admissions and Records, Delta State University
1978–1982	James Alinder, Director of Admissions, Mississippi University for Women
1982–1984	Carl Comer, Dean of Student Affairs, Itawamba Junior College
1984–1993	Thomas Scarbrough, Director, Enrollment Management, William Carey College
1993–2001	James Donald Cooper, University Registrar and Director of Admissions, Delta State University
2001–2003	Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director, Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
2003–2004	William McHenry, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Mississippi State Institution for Higher Learning
2004–2008	T. Randall Bradberry, Associate Executive Director for Programs, Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
2008–2009	Jay Allen, Dean of Enrollment Services, Hinds Community 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 Mississippi ACT State Organization Council\*

*ACT State Representative and Past Chair*  
Jay Allen  
Dean of Enrollment Services  
Hinds Community College

*Chairperson*  
Philip Bonfanti  
Director of Admissions and Scholarships  
Mississippi State University

*Chair-Elect*  
Sam Bounds  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Association of School  
Superintendents

*Secretary*  
Jayme Sullivan  
Counselor  
Northwest Rankin High School

*ACT Liaison*  
Mary Hendrix  
Director, P-16 Assessment Services  
ACT Southeast Region

Amanda Belsom  
Director of Admissions  
University of Southern Mississippi

Sheree Bond  
Director of Financial Aid  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community  
College

Cathy Broadway  
Principal  
Pass Christian High School

Christy Broome  
Counselor  
South Panola High School

Stephanie Chatman  
Director of Undergraduate Admissions  
Jackson State University

Mary Jane Covington  
Director, Office of Student Financial Aid  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher  
Learning

Michelle Cresap  
Counselor  
Crystal Springs Middle School

John M. Curlee III  
Principal  
Tupelo High School

Charlotte Fant  
Director of Admissions and University  
Registrar  
University of Mississippi

Johnny Franklin  
Education Policy Advisor  
Mississippi Governor's Office

Aretha Hargrove-Edwards  
Guidance Counselor  
Greenville-Weston High School

Richard Houston  
Director of Counseling and Testing  
Delta State University

Kris Kaase  
Deputy State Superintendent of  
Instructional Programs and Services  
Mississippi Department of Education

Lea Ann Knight  
Director of Counseling and Recruitment  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Pearl Pennington  
Director of Student Affairs  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher  
Learning

Fiona Qualls  
Associate Executive Director  
Mississippi State Board for Community  
and Junior Colleges

Wayne Richey  
Eighth-Grade Counselor  
Clinton Junior High School

\* As of May 2009

