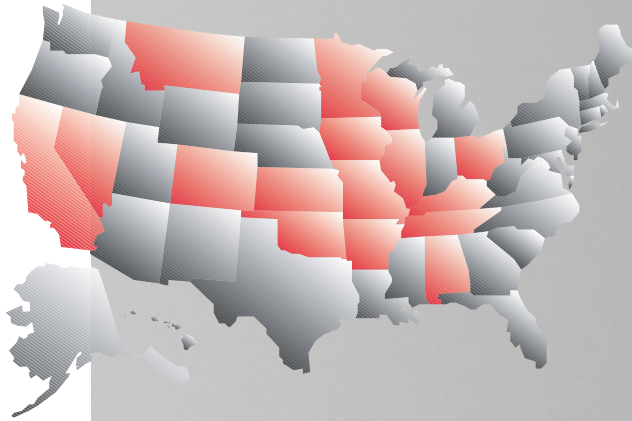


ACT State Organizations

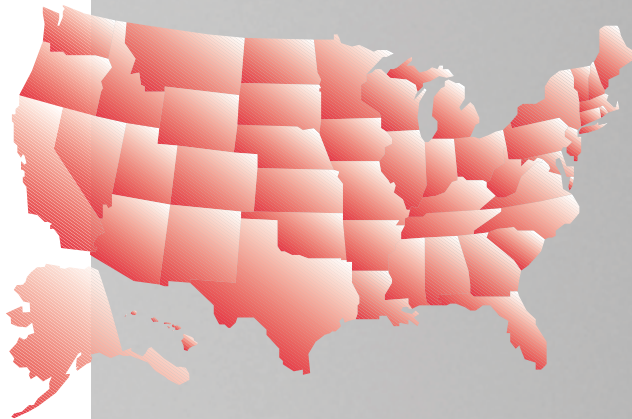
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959



ACT

2009



ACT[®]



NORTH DAKOTA

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 North Dakota ACT State Organization

In 1959, the year of ACT's founding, the North Dakota College Testing Program established an ACT State Advisory Committee. Ruby McKenzie, then president of the North Dakota Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (ACRAO), promoted ACT with members of that organization and, in fall 1959, the state commissioner of higher education approved use of the ACT in all institutions. Charles Scott, then president emeritus of the North Dakota State Teachers College, was appointed the North Dakota state coordinator. In 1967, the North Dakota ACRAO became the official ACT State Organization.

Today, the North Dakota ACT State Organization is involved in many initiatives, including:

- Expanding the State Organization's network of professionals who work to improve college and workforce success
- Supporting the North Dakota P-16 initiative to increase readiness for college and the workforce
- Providing North Dakota education professionals with key resources to help them prepare students for college and workforce success
- Providing professional development opportunities on effective uses of ACT program data and resources

Past North Dakota ACT State Representatives

- 1959–1966 Charles Scott, President Emeritus, North Dakota State Teachers College
- 1966–1967 Gary Scott, Director of Student Personnel, Minot State College
- 1968–1976 James Brandt, Dean of Student Services, Minot State College
- 1977–1986 David Nelson, Student Services Coordinator, St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing
- 1986–1995 Gerald Hamerlik, Dean of Enrollment Services and Assistant Professor of Counseling and Guidance, Emeritus, University of North Dakota
- 1995–1998 Donna Bruce, Associate Director of Admissions and Records, University of North Dakota
- 1998–1999 Alice Poehls, University Registrar, University of North Dakota
- 1999–2001 Nancy Hall, Vice President, Academic Affairs, Minot State University
- 2001–2009 Mary Bergstrom, Academic Advisement Functional Analyst, ConnectND Project, Higher Education Computer Network, North Dakota University System

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



North Dakota Colleges and Universities That Have Accepted the ACT Since 1959

Bismarck State College
Dickinson State University
Jamestown College
Lake Region State College
Mayville State University
Minot State University
North Dakota State College of Science
North Dakota State University
University of North Dakota
Valley City State University

Current North Dakota ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Mary Bergstrom
Academic Advisement Functional
Analyst, ConnectND Project
Higher Education Computer Network
North Dakota University System

Chairperson

Dennis Steele
Assistant Career and Technical Education
Director
Missouri River Educational Cooperative

Chair-Elect

Bonnie Weisz
Testing and Assessment Coordinator
Bismarck State College

Secretary

Heather Soleim
Coordinator of Transfer Services
North Dakota State University

ACT Liaison

Jim Ekerberg
Consultant, EPAS®
ACT West Region

Phyllis Howard

Executive Director
North Dakota Association of Tribal
Colleges

Doug Johnson

Executive Director
North Dakota Council of Educational
Leaders

Kenton Pauls

Director of Enrollment Management
University of North Dakota

Julie Schepp

Academic Affairs Associate and Director
of Research
North Dakota University System

* As of May 2009

