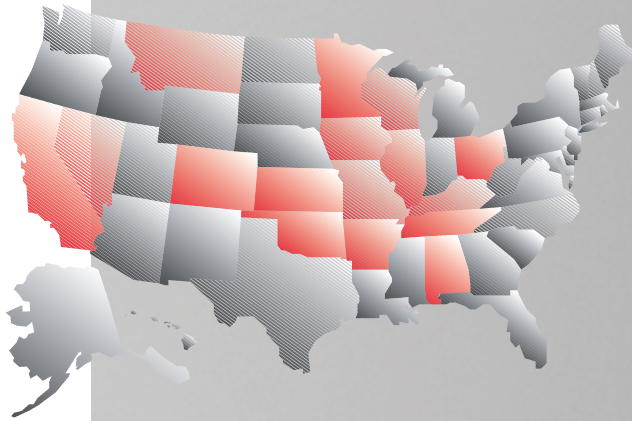


# ACT State Organizations

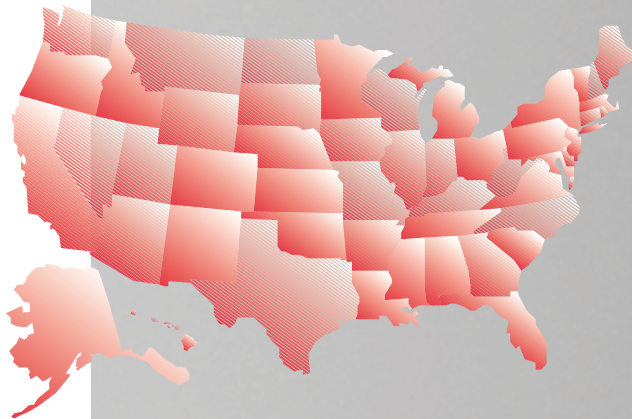
*Fifty Years—1959 to 2009*

1959

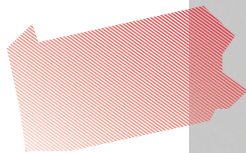


ACT

2009



ACT®



PENNSYLVANIA

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 Pennsylvania ACT State Organization

The Pennsylvania ACT State Organization was formed in 1972. Its relevancy continues today as several issues face the state, including retention of students and college and career readiness. The Pennsylvania ACT State Organization sees great benefits in using ACT solutions in Pennsylvania. It is working to expand knowledge about these products and to show how they can enhance the work of educators in Pennsylvania. These products will benefit students and their families, as well as helping them be successful in their planning and preparation for their college and career.

## Past Pennsylvania ACT State Representatives

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1972–1973 | Robert Lowry, Dean of Graduate Studies, Slippery Rock State College  |
| 1974–1983 | Kenneth Wenger, Educational Consultant, Wenger Associates  |
| 1983–1987 | Sally Mahon, Acting Director of Physical Plant and Director of Financial Aid, Bucks County Community College                             |
| 1987–1992 | Sharon Rose-Bond, Director of Testing, Community College of Philadelphia   |
| 1992–2001 | Robert Watson, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs, Slippery Rock University–Lowry Center  |
| 2001–2009 | Eric R. White, Executive Director, Division of Undergraduate Studies, and Associate Dean for Advising, The Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania ACT State Organization Council\*

### *ACT State Representative*

Eric R. White  
Executive Director, Division of  
Undergraduate Studies, and Associate  
Dean for Advising  
The Pennsylvania State University

### *Chair*

Scott Friedhoff  
Vice President for Enrollment  
Allegheny College

### *Chair-Elect*

Mark W. Henry  
Director, Advising and Transfer Services  
Northampton Community College

### *Past Chair*

Betsy A. Porter, Ph.D.  
Director of Admissions and Financial Aid  
University of Pittsburgh

### *ACT Liaison*

Larry Rich  
Assistant Vice President and Regional  
Manager  
ACT Northeast Region

James E. Barker  
Superintendent of Schools  
School District of the City of Erie

Albert Bichner  
Deputy Chief Academic Officer  
School District of Philadelphia

JoAnne E. Burley, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education

Gary Carlson  
Director of Guidance  
Central High School

Peter H. Garland  
Executive Vice Chancellor  
Pennsylvania State System of Higher  
Education

Samuel Hirsh  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Community College of Philadelphia

Nancy A. Kenner  
Director of Academic Advising  
Lincoln University of the Commonwealth  
of Pennsylvania

Stephen Lee  
Director of Admission  
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania

Maria Mitchell  
Associate Vice President for Enrollment  
Management  
Reading Area Community College

William Nunn  
Dean of Enrollment Management  
Community College of Allegheny County

Sylvester Pace  
President and CEO  
Negro Educational Emergency Drive

Teresa M. Romano  
Senior Program Officer  
Pittsburgh Public Schools

Bill Rullo  
Counseling Department Chair  
Upper Saint Clair High School

Joanna Schultz  
Director of College Counseling  
The Ellis School

Kate Shaw  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Education

Lee J. Stetson, Jr.  
Dean of Admission  
University of Pennsylvania

Michelle A. Strain  
Associate Dean of Educational Support  
Lehigh Carbon Community College

\* As of May 2009

