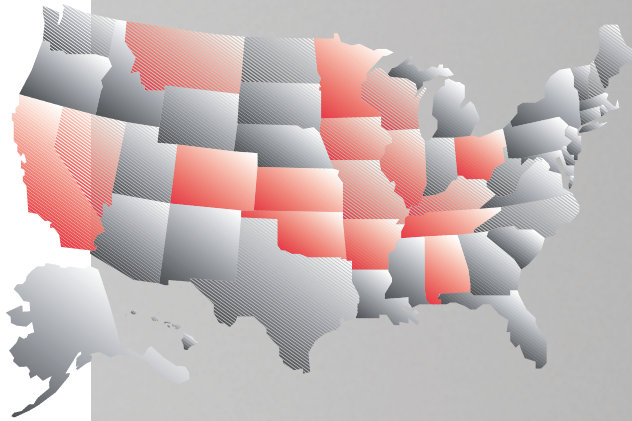


ACT State Organizations

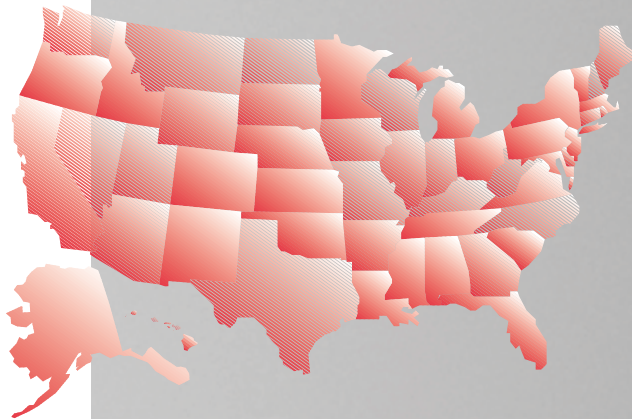
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959



ACT

2009



ACT[®]



TENNESSEE

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 Tennessee ACT State Organization

An ACT policy committee was established in Tennessee in 1959, the year of ACT's founding. R.F. Thomason, then dean of admissions at The University of Tennessee, was selected as the first ACT state coordinator for Tennessee. Colleges across the state were also among the first in the country to accept the ACT for college admissions.

In spring 2008, the Tennessee ACT State Organization sponsored a highly successful education summit, "Tennessee on the Move," with more than 300 attendees. A postsecondary-focused, one-day conference is scheduled for October 30, 2009, continuing work begun with the summit, and a second summit is being planned for 2010. The State Organization has a membership of nearly 300 secondary and postsecondary educators and administrators.

In April 2009, Tennessee offered the ACT to its students in weekday testing for the first time, funded by the state, and EXPLORE® and PLAN® are used in essentially all the school districts under state funding. COMPASS® is used by all Tennessee Board of Regents institutions. WorkKeys® is widely used across the state to document workplace skills.

Past Tennessee ACT State Representatives

1959–1965	R.F. Thomason, Dean of Admissions, The University of Tennessee
1965–1978	William Smyth, Jr., Director of Admissions, The University of Tennessee–Knoxville
1979–1993	John Eubank, Jr., Dean of Admissions and Records, Memphis State University
1993–2001	Cliff Gillespie, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Middle Tennessee State University
2001–2007	Robert Levy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of Tennessee
2007–2009	Richard Bayer, Assistant Provost, Enrollment Services, The University of Tennessee–Knoxville

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



Tennessee Colleges and Universities That Have Accepted the ACT Since 1959

Bryan College
 Carson–Newman College
 Christian Brothers University
 Cumberland University
 Freed–Hardeman University
 Hiwassee College
 Johnson Bible College
 Knoxville College
 Lambuth University
 Lane College
 Martin Methodist College

Maryville College
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Milligan College
 Tennessee Tech University
 Tennessee Temple University
 Tennessee Wesleyan University
 Union University
 The University of Tennessee–Chattanooga
 The University of Tennessee–Knoxville
 The University of Tennessee–Martin

Current Tennessee ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Richard Bayer
 Assistant Provost, Enrollment Services
 The University of Tennessee

Ron Gambill
 President
 Edsouth Funding

Claude Pressnell, Jr.
 President
 Tennessee Independent Colleges and
 Universities Association

Chairperson

Treva Berryman
 Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic
 Affairs
 Tennessee Board of Regents

Ken Green
 Assistant Superintendent
 Oak Ridge Schools

Richard Rhoda
 Executive Director
 Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Chair-Elect

Bill Akey
 Assistant Vice Provost for Enrollment
 Services
 The University of Memphis

David Gregory
 Vice Chancellor for Administration and
 Facilities Management
 Tennessee Board of Regents

Ellen Thornton
 Executive Director
 Tennessee Business Roundtable

Secretary

Richard Grimm
 Vice President for Enrollment Services
 Union University

James King
 Vice Chancellor for Tennessee
 Technology Centers
 Tennessee Board of Regents

Ellen Weed
 Vice President for Academic Affairs
 Nashville State Technical Community
 College

ACT Liaison

Mary Hendrix
 Director, P–16 Assessment Services
 ACT Southeast Region

Kim Mansfield-Hoscheit
 Assistant Principal
 East Literature Magnet School

Ruth Woodall
 Director, Tennessee Scholars
 Tennessee Chamber of Commerce

Deborah Boyd
 Associate Dean, College of Education
 Lipscomb University

Gary Nixon
 Executive Director
 Tennessee State Board of Education

* As of May 2009

Nicole Cobb
 Director, School Counseling
 Tennessee Department of Education

Eddie Pawlawski
 Executive Vice President and Dean of
 Students
 Cumberland University

