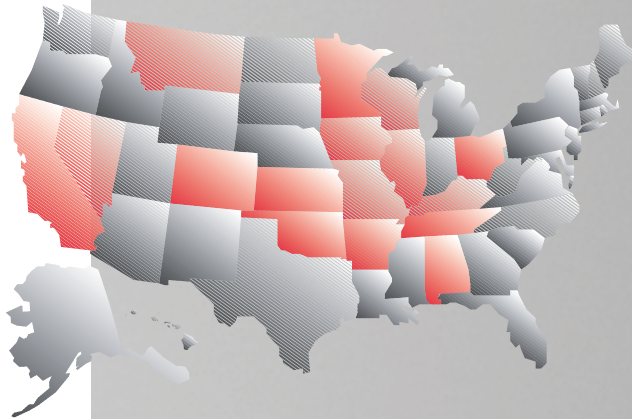


ACT State Organizations

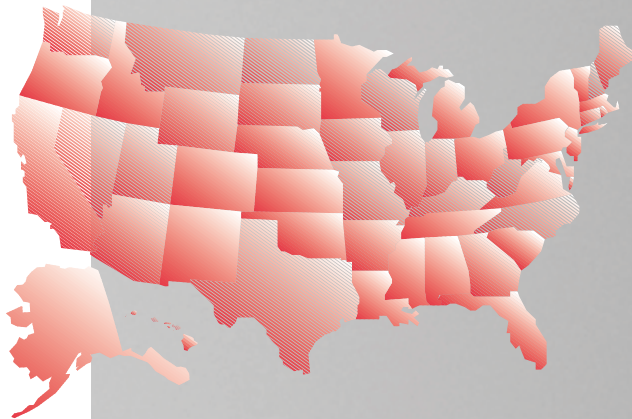
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959



ACT

2009



ACT®



TEXAS

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 Texas ACT State Organization

Texas established its ACT Advisory Committee in 1960, and ACT cofounder McCarrel appointed Alton Lee of Baylor University as the first ACT state coordinator in Texas.

Today, the Texas ACT State Organization sponsors an annual Southwest Region College Readiness Symposium with the other ACT Southwest State Organizations. It draws more than 500 participants from across the five ACT Southwest Region states—Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Additionally, the Texas ACT State Organization sponsors individual in-state conferences for school and university administrators on admission practices and enrollment management, developmental education, and school reform. The Texas ACT State Organization sponsors the Texas ACT College Readiness Awards for schools that have improved access to college by increasing the number of students participating in the ACT while also boosting their school ACT composite score by at least one full point, and it has sponsored the College Readiness Recognition Awards for Texas students who met or exceeded the PLAN® College Readiness Benchmarks in their high school sophomore year.

Past Texas ACT State Representatives

- 1959–1974 Alton Lee, Dean of Admissions and Records, Baylor University
- 1975–1984 Alton Brieger, Associate Professor of History, Southwest Texas State University
- 1984–1993 Ronald Brown, Professor, Educational Administration, University of Texas at Austin
- 1993–2002 Nellie Thorogood, Vice Chancellor for Organizational Development and Institutional Renewal, North Harris Montgomery Community College District
- 2002–2006 Thomas Applegate, Executive Dean, Highland Business Center, Austin Community College
- 2006–2009 Charles Cook, Vice Chancellor for Instruction, Houston Community College 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



Current Texas ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Charles Cook
Vice Chancellor for Educational
Development
Houston Community College System

Chairperson

Bennie Lambert
Vice President, Student and
Organizational Development
Lone Star College–North Harris

Chair-Elect

Maria Luisa Guerra
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
and Support Services
Edinburg Consolidated ISD

Past Chair

John Edwards
Vice President for Enrollment and
Student Services
University of Texas–Pan American

Secretary

Jennifer Ehlers
Director of Admissions
University of Texas at San Antonio

ACT Liaison

Karen Pennell
Assistant Vice President and Regional
Manager
ACT Southwest Region

Raymond Brown
Dean of Admissions
Texas Christian University

Kelly Callaway
Director of Advanced Academics
Texas Education Agency

Lupita Garcia
Director of Student Support Services
Austin ISD

Gena Gardiner
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,
Instruction, and Special Projects
Highland Park ISD

Martyn Gunn
Dean of Undergraduate Programs and
Associate Provost
Texas A&M University–College Station

Christine Patterson
K–16 Education Policy Research and
Analysis
Private Consultant

Kenneth Poenisch
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic
Affairs
Texas A&M University System

Diana Ramey
Assistant Vice President for Enrollment
Management
Baylor University

Linda Rawlings
Principal
Westlake High School

Pedro Reyes
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic
Planning and Assessment
University of Texas System

Pat Waldrop
Director of Guidance and Counseling
Spring Branch ISD

Craig Westman
Associate Vice President for Enrollment
Management
University of Texas at El Paso

Millicent Woods
Executive Director, Enrollment
Management and Innovative
Initiatives
Texas Southern University

Ken Zornes
Executive Director
Texas Business & Education Coalition

* As of May 2009

