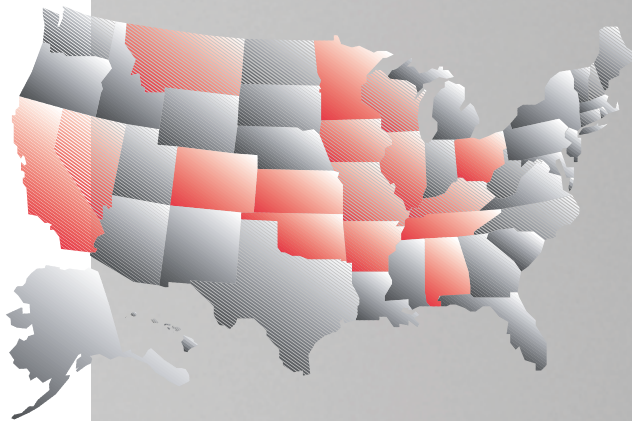


ACT State Organizations

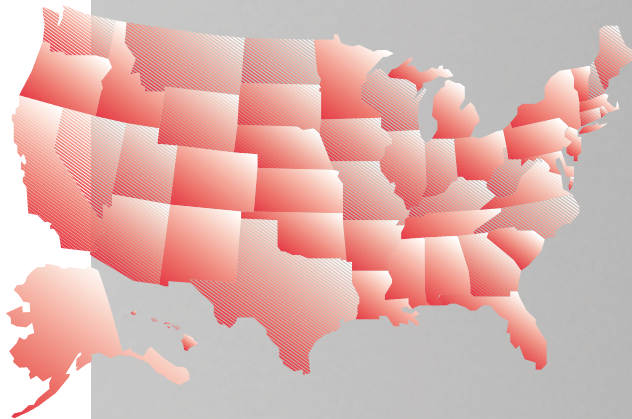
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959

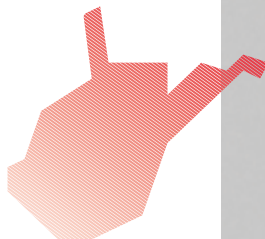


ACT

2009



ACT[®]



WEST VIRGINIA

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 West Virginia ACT State Organization

The West Virginia ACT State Organization was created in 1961. That same year, the State Department of Education required the ACT exam for applicants to state institutions. J. Everett Long, registrar at West Virginia University, acted as West Virginia's first ACT state coordinator, a role that would later become the state representative.

Today, the West Virginia ACT State Organization sponsors an annual conference that draws more than 200 participants from across the state and has a membership of more than 125 secondary and postsecondary educators and administrators. It presents the ACT 36er Award to high schools in the state that have one or more students who achieved a top score of 36. In addition, it honors middle and high schools with the Red Quill Award for schools that have done an exceptional job of utilizing, implementing, and integrating any of ACT's college readiness assessments with students, faculty, and parents. West Virginia has adopted PLAN® and EXPLORE® as part of its statewide assessment program.

Past West Virginia ACT State Representatives

1961–1963	J. Everett Long, Registrar, West Virginia University
1963–1966	Stanley R. Harris, Registrar, West Virginia University
1967–1970	Luther Bledsoe, Registrar, Marshall University
1970–1974	Otis Milam, Jr., Registrar and Director of Admissions, Fairmont State College
1974–1994	James Harless, Director of Admissions, Marshall University
1994–2006	John Fuller, Sr., Director of Registration and Records and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, West Virginia State University
2006–2009	John Cardwell, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Bluefield State 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 West Virginia ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

John Cardwell
Vice President for Student Affairs
and Enrollment Management
Bluefield State College

Chairperson

Amie Fazalare
Director, GEAR UP
Fairmont State University

Chair-Elect

Jason R. Luyster
Assistant Director of Admissions
Alderson-Broadbudd College

Past Chair

Brenda King
Director of Admissions
West Liberty State College

Secretary

Lori Helmick
Counselor
St. Mary's High School

ACT Liaison

Laura Beach
Consultant, EPAS®
ACT Midwest Region

Melissa Aguilar
Executive Director
Region 1 Workforce Investment Board

Allyn Sue Barker
Vice President for Workforce and
Economic Development
Southern West Virginia Community
and Technical College

Ex-Officio

Beth Cipoletti
Coordinator, Office of Assessment
Services
West Virginia Department of Education

Ex-Officio

Daniel Crockett
Director of Student and Educational
Services
West Virginia Higher Education Policy
Commission

John L. Fuller
Interim Vice President for Planning
and Advancement
West Virginia State University

Craig Grooms
Executive Director
College Summit West Virginia

Patrick Leggett
Counselor
Point Pleasant High School

William Mullett
Director, Counseling and Testing
Kanawha County Schools

Jim Scherr
Counselor
Garnet Career Center

Dina Smith
Assistant Principal
Wyoming East High School

Ex-Officio

Sharon Wagoner
Workforce Development Coordinator
Community and Technical College
System of West Virginia

* As of May 2009

