



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

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CONTACT: Communications
334-694-4686
comm@alsde.edu

Governor Kay Ivey
President

**ALABAMA RECEIVES THE INAUGURAL ACT
STATE COLLEGE AND CAREER CHAMPION AWARD**

First of its kind, the ACT is Recognizing Alabama for Student Preparedness

Jackie Zaigler
District I

MONTGOMERY, AL – At the monthly Alabama State Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, the State Board members were surprised when Janet Godwin, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ACT, and Dr. Tony Thacker, Director, State Partnerships /State and Federal Programs for ACT, presented the Board with the inaugural **“ACT College and Career Champion”** Award.

Tracie West
District II

ACT made the decision to present Alabama with the first-time award due to the state’s aggressive stance on supporting student success through a partnership with ACT that has resulted in more than 520,000 Alabama graduates successfully completing the ACT in the past 10 years.

Stephanie Bell
District III

Not only the ACT, but the administration of the PreACT, WorkKeys, and other supports have shown Alabama’s commitment to student success. Alabama has committed to supporting student success on the ACT by administering the PreACT to all 10th graders and providing online resources (AOP and WorkKeys Curriculum) shown to increase success on both the ACT and WorkKeys assessments.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

WorkKeys, an assessment that measures foundational skills required for success in the workplace, has increased usage from approximately 4,100 assessments completed statewide in 2013 to just over 145,000 completed in 2022 alone.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

During the past decade more than 1,350,000 WorkKeys assessments have been completed in Alabama. Also, during that time more than 315,000 National Career Readiness Certificates have been awarded in Alabama. Equally as important, more than 675 Alabama businesses recognize the value of a WorkKeys NCRC as a critical component of a work ready community.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Eric Mackey, said the ACT is a primary gateway to and predictor of success in a higher education setting. This recognition, he said, is further evidence of the hard work that educators, parents, and especially students are doing to realize their goals.

Belinda McRae
District VII

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Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

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“The numbers don’t lie, but they only tell a portion of the story,” Mackey said. “Because of Alabama’s commitment to providing all students with valid, reliable, and nationally recognized measures of knowledge and skills, as well as, workforce readiness, we have provided possibilities for enhanced futures to countless students who may otherwise not have had them.”

Godwin said Alabama was the recipient of the inaugural ACT State College and Career Champion award because it celebrates the outstanding efforts that ALSDE has made to provide every graduating student with opportunities to explore and navigate postsecondary options.

“From PreACT to the ACT to ACT WorkKeys, ALSDE’s college and career readiness system exemplifies your commitment to connecting assessment, instructional improvement, and educator resources, and to truly walking the walk of “college and career opportunity for all” by providing students multiple pathways to success,” Godwin said. “On behalf of ACT, I am pleased and proud to recognize Alabama as our 2022 ACT State College and Career Champion and present this award to State Superintendent, Dr. Eric Mackey, members of the Alabama State Board of Education, and all educators across the state of Alabama who have and continue to work so hard to ensure every student has an opportunity at a successful future.”

Dr. Tony Thacker lauded the state’s commitment to making sure every student in the state of Alabama reaches his or her fullest potential. Thacker recalled the Alabama State Department of Education’s motto when recognizing the department’s efforts to make a better Alabama.

“In your own words: Every child. Every chance. Every day,” Thacker said. “Under the leadership of Dr. Eric Mackey, the Alabama State Department of Education strives to ensure that those six words encapsulate the beliefs and ideals in Alabama’s state goals so that your students are truly prepared for the workforce.”

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