June 1, 2010

Michael D. Sessa  
Executive Director  
PESC - Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council  
1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Sessa:

I am very happy to write in support of the EdUnify project proposed by PESC (Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council) to develop the proof of concept for an innovative directory service model. EdUnify will connect our global community of students, advisors, faculty, researchers, and administrators with essential information – no matter where the information resides – to enable better decision-making toward academic success.

Georgetown University is an active member in the PESC community putting aside competitive self interests and working across the diverse members including institutions, government agencies, associations, and industry developing community shared specifications to foster data, process and information standards. Our work has led to improved student success through the application of information technology and practices moving away from standalone, disparate and proprietary data management. Yet, we have so much more to accomplish.

In our work with postsecondary institutions, government agencies, associations and industry, Georgetown University clearly recognizes the vital importance in developing new information technologies to support student mobility and the currency of learning. We need to dedicate resources to improve how credentials and recognition seamlessly follow learners as they move and aspire to complete degrees. In doing so, we need a means to work better together - in an online consumer centric world – complementing the localized and self contained traditional student experiences that most institutional systems support well.

Working with PESC to develop EdUnify will afford the broader educational community the opportunity to combine efforts, leverage reuse and improve transparency of information services in order to benefit learners of all types. I strongly support the EdUnify project and will devote our effort and resources to support this worthy project adding to our commitment to adopt the PESC standards already in progress.

Sincerely, 

Charles F. Leonhardt  
Principal Technologist