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College Foundation of North Carolina's "Electronic High School Transcript System" Wins Top Award in PESC’s 11th Annual Best Practices Competition
Kristi Blabaum of NASLA and Michael Morris of ACT Honored with Distinguished Service Awards

Washington DC – The Board of Directors of PESC - the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council is very pleased to announce “Electronic High School Transcript System” submitted by the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) as Winner of PESC’s 11th Annual Best Practices Competition for 2009. This submission received high praise from the Board Review Committee for Best Practices as it focused strategically on the use and support of data and standards and the infrastructure necessary to carry out its long-term goals and vision. The Best Practices Competition is held each year by PESC to promote innovation and ingenuity in the application of standards for business needs. An Awards Ceremony will be held immediately prior to the keynote address of PESC's Spring 2010 Data Summit being held April 1 – 2, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

In making this submission, Robin Greene, Senior Associate Director, Technology and Internet Services, CFNC, UNC General Administration highlighted its innovative approach stating, "[this system] is the first and only implementation of electronic high school transcripts in the state." To support its long-term vision, Ms. Greene added, "[this system] is built on a sustainable system infrastructure among a unique collaborative partnership of secondary and postsecondary education entities... it is expandable to include future growth state- and nationwide with additional secondary school districts as well as postsecondary entities using national data standards such as those created and adopted under PESC."

CFNC is a joint effort of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, College Foundation Inc., and Pathways of North Carolina. The Pathways partnership was requested by the UNC Board of Governors, is funded by the General Assembly, and includes the NC Department of Public Instruction (K-12), NC Community College System (58), NC Independent College and Universities (36), and the UNC System (16). At its main data center, the system processes approximately 5,200 transcripts per month for 440 high schools.
At its Awards Ceremony, PESC will also honor Kristi Blabaum of Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation (represented under PESC member NASLA - National Association of Student Loan Administrators) and Michael Morris of ACT with “Distinguished Service Awards.” Ms. Blabaum currently serves as Chair of the Change Control Board (CCB) under PESC's Standards Forum for Education, a volunteer position she's held for the past several years. In this role, she leads the data analysis efforts of the CCB ultimately determining what passes as a PESC standard. She has been a standards advocate for over a decade gaining expertise through her extensive background in student aid technology and business processes. Michael Morris served as Co-Chair of the Education Test Score Reporting Workgroup and drove the development group over a three year period to ultimately produce a robust, high quality standard with correspondingly thorough documentation. With the Education Test Score Reporting standard now completed and available for implementation, Mr. Morris continues to volunteer and contribute to other development workgroups within PESC including its Recruitment and Enrollment Workgroup.

For more information about PESC, please visit www.PESC.org. To see a complete listing of all past winners of the Best Practices Competition and Distinguished Services Awards, please click on the Events tab.

About PESC
Established in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), community-based, umbrella association of colleges and universities; college and university systems; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; non-profit organizations and associations; and state and federal government agencies. Through open and transparent community participation, PESC enables cost-effective connectivity between data systems to accelerate performance and service, to simplify data access and research, and to improve data quality along the higher education lifecycle. PESC envisions national and international interoperability, that is a trustworthy, inter-connected environment built by and between communities of interest in which data flows seamlessly from one system to another and throughout the entire eco-system when and where needed without compatibility barriers but in a safe, secure, reliable, and efficient manner. For more information, please visit www.PESC.org.

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