CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC Announce 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education

January 17, 2006 Washington DC ~ The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), the Education Finance Council (EFC), the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education to be held May 1 – 3, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

Due to the overwhelming success of the first two Annual Conferences, the four associations are continuing to focus on technological issues important to their respective memberships under one efficient venue. The conference is targeted toward technical staff and upper management responsible for technology decisions. Once again, this conference includes the full support and participation of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

In partnering together, CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC are jointly planning and developing this conference, and PESC will serve as overall administrator. Members and/or Affiliates from any of the four associations are eligible for the discounted registration rate of $475. The non-Membership rate is $700. Hotel reservations can be made now by contacting the Wyndham Washington directly at 202-429-1700 or at 800-996-3426 or online at www.Wyndham.com. The Wyndham Washington is located at 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C. A conference rate of $180 has been reserved for single/double hotel rooms. If calling for reservations, the group name is “PESC”; for online reservations, use “0426648POS.” The cut-off date to receive this discounted rate is April 10, 2006. Conference registration is also available online at http://www.PESC.org/events/TechStandards/Third/.
A joint conference committee, with representatives from all 4 partner organizations, has been formed to finalize all sessions and speakers, and announcements with final sessions and speakers will be made shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director, at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

About CBA
The Consumer Bankers Association is the recognized voice on retail banking issues in the nation’s capital. Member institutions are the leaders in consumer financial services, including auto finance, home equity lending, card products, education loans, small business services, community development, investments, deposits and delivery. CBA was founded in 1919 and provides leadership, education, research and federal representation on retail banking issues such as privacy, fair lending, and consumer protection legislation/regulation. CBA members include most of the nation’s largest bank holding companies as well as regional and super community banks that collectively hold two-thirds of the industry’s total assets. CBA’s Education Funding Committee is the public policy voice for private-market capital to fund loans supporting America’s students. The special challenges facing American higher education necessitate that voice more than ever, particularly as Congress begins reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

About EFC
The Education Finance Council (EFC) is a non-profit trade association that represents non-profit state-based student loan secondary market organizations including scholarship funding corporations throughout the country. These public purpose organizations are dedicated to the single purpose of making sure students can get the money and other support they need to go to college. Secondary markets expand access to higher education in two main ways: by ensuring the availability of funding for student loans and by making it easier and less expensive to pay for college. Secondary markets, along with lenders, guaranty agencies and other service providers are participants in the Federal Family Education Loan Program. This landmark federal program has been opening the doors of higher education for over 40 years.

About NCHELP
Based in Washington, DC, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, Inc. (NCHELP) represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collectors, schools and other organizations involved in the administration of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Since its founding, NCHELP has represented its members on public policy and regulatory issues with the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. NCHELP members promote student access and choice for postsecondary education and training. A key objective is to keep the public informed about the availability of FFELP loans as a method to ensure open access to a postsecondary education. NCHELP’s members provide guaranteed loan assistance under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, which consists of four different loan programs: subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Program and Federal Consolidation Loan Program.

About PESC
Established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a non-profit, community-based, umbrella association of colleges and universities; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; and state and federal government agencies. PESC’s mission is to lead the establishment and adoption of data exchange standards in education. The goals of the mission are to enable the improvement of institutional performance and foster collaboration across educational communities in order to lower costs, improve service, and attain system interoperability.