CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC Announce
4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education

January 16, 2007  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 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education to be held April 23 – 25, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

With this conference, the four associations continue 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 $500. The non-Membership rate is $750. 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 $185 has been reserved for single/double hotel rooms. If calling for reservations, the group name is “PESC”; for online reservations, use “0422648ESC.” The cut-off date to receive this discounted hotel rate is March 30, 2007. Conference registration is also available online at www.PESC.org.

The conference begins at 8:30am on Monday April 23, 2007, includes six general sessions that will feature prominent and authoritative speakers, eighteen concurrent sessions, and concludes by noon on Wednesday April 25, 2007. The agenda for the conference is as follows:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact:
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| 8:30am – 9:00am | Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Awards  
  **Michael Sessa**  
  Executive Director  
  PESC                                                                 |                                                                                       |                                                                                          |
| 9:00am – 10:15am| Using Data to Improve Student Achievement  
  **Aimee Guidera**  
  Director  
  Data Quality Campaign                                                                 | Standards within the US Department of Education  
  **Katie Blot**  
  Chief Information Officer  
  Chief Information Office  
  Federal Student Aid  
  US Department of Education  
  **Lee Hoffman**  
  National Center for Education Statistics  
  US Department of Education  
  **Ross Santy**  
  Deputy Assistant Secretary for Data and Information  
  Office of Planning, Evaluation & Policy Development  
  US Department of Education                                                                 | Bridging the Cultural Divide in Higher Education  
  **Dr. Michael Zastrocky**  
  Vice President & Research Director for Academic Strategies  
  Gartner, Inc.                                                                 |
| 10:30am – 11:45am| Open Source, Learning and Patents  
  **Michael Feldstein**  
  Assistant Director, Learning Network  
  State University of New York (SUNY)                                                                 | Data as a Resource - State Policymaker’s Perspectives  
  **Hans P. L’Orange**  
  Director, SHEEO/NCES Network & Director of Data & Information Management  
  State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)                                                                 | The e-Learning Environment  
  **Rob Abel**  
  Chief Executive Officer  
  IMS Global Learning Consortium                                                                 |
| 11:45am – 1:15pm| Lunch                                                                 | Lunch                                                                                         | Adjourn                                                                                  |
| 1:15pm – 2:15pm | Concurrent Sessions  
  – Advanced XML 101 for Experts  
  – National Standards in Development  
  – Student Loan Podcasts                                                                 | Concurrent Sessions  
  – Data Transport Standard  
  – E-Document Requirements for Storage, Reproduction and Security  
  – TBD                                                                 |                                                                                          |
| 2:30pm – 3:30pm | Concurrent Sessions  
  – Advanced XML 102 for Experts  
  – Standards-Based Electronic Transcripts for the University of Michigan  
  – TBD                                                                 | Concurrent Sessions  
  – Authentication and ID Management  
  – National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)  
  – TBD                                                                 |                                                                                          |
A joint conference committee, with representatives from all four partner organizations, has been formed to finalize all concurrent sessions and speakers. If you have any questions or wish to sponsor the 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards, 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. Its member banks provide the loans to students and parents that make higher education possible for millions of Americans every year.

About EFC
The mission of the Education Finance Council (EFC) is making college more affordable. Together with its members, EFC works to expand access to higher education by ensuring the availability of student loan funds while striving to make paying for college easier and less expensive for all students and families. EFC represents not for profit and state based student loan secondary markets that participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) as well as affiliated entities including guaranty agencies, lenders, rating agencies, insurers and investment bankers. EFC members are constantly seeking and implementing new technologies to ensure innovation and improvement in the financing of postsecondary education. In existence for more than 40 years, the FFELP has provided more than $500 billion in loans for students and families.

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 is committed to helping its members, and colleges and universities, meet the operational challenges associated with providing financial assistance to millions of American students each year. NCHELP’s Electronic Standards Committee is committed to facilitating a coordinated and proactive approach to electronic standardization efforts.

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.

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