FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Michael Sessa
PESC Executive Director
+1.202.261.6516

Public Comment Requested on Admissions Application
Public Comment Period Now Open on Proposed XML Standard for Exchanging Admissions Applications

(Washington DC) - The Board of Directors of PESC – the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council is pleased to announce that public comment period is now open on the proposed XML standard for submitting and exchanging admissions applications.

The proposed XML standards for the Admissions Application, Education Test Score Reporting and IPEDS upload are all simultaneously open for public comment and share the same comment period expiration date. All three proposed standards as well as the numerous standards already approved by PESC (high school and college transcripts, student aid, etc.) are based on the same XML architecture and data modeling guidelines established and used by both PESC and the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office since 2005.

With the development work recently completed and submitted to PESC, the Admissions Application specifications are now immediately ready for public comment period. The complete submission can be accessed at http://www.PESC.org. The public comment period begins today Monday April 27, 2009 and will expire at the close of business on Tuesday May 26, 2009.

All comments from the general public and PESC membership should be made in the form of an e-mail to the PESC Executive Director at: Michael.Sessa@PESC.org. Public comments can address any and/or all part of the standard being proposed. The comment e-mail should clearly identify the:

1) Responder full name and appropriate contact information (phone, email, organization, etc);
2) Source of the comments, i.e., whether the comments are individual or originate from a group the responder represents;
3) Nature of the responder’s interest in the standard (what is the issue and why is it important?);
4) Element(s) of the proposed standard with which issue is taken;
5) Changes suggested to resolve the issue(s).

+1.202.261.6516
www.PESC.org
The Process

Within 30 calendar days after the close of the public comment period, the Change Control Board (CCB) of PESC’s Standards Forum for Education will address and consider all public comments and make, in consultation with the Admissions Application development workgroup any necessary revisions. All public comments will be posted to the PESC website during the review process. The CCB’s consideration/revision period expires on Thursday June 25, 2009 unless extenuating circumstances exist which require further deliberation.

Once any changes resulting from the public comment period have been incorporated, the CCB will recommend to the Standards Forum’s Steering Committee and the PESC Board of Directors that the Admissions Application specifications be submitted to a vote by the PESC members. The PESC office will issue electronic ballots to the official contacts of PESC member organizations. Completed ballots, including the reason(s) for any rejection, must be returned to the PESC office via e-mail attachment, fax, overnight delivery, or U.S. Postal Service within ten (10) business days. PESC staff is responsible for the tabulation of the ballots; acceptance of the specification as a standard requires an affirmative vote of at least 80% of all votes cast. Once the members accept and approve the specification, the PESC Board of Directors will within seven (7) calendar days ratify the vote or refer it back to the CCB with specific instructions for further work.

PESC staff will then publish/post all necessary documents and communications and implement version control on all documents. PESC approved standards are freely accessible on the PESC website (http://www.PESC.org).

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; non-profit organizations and associations; and state and federal government agencies. PESC’s mission is to lead the alignment of data across disparate systems to improve performance and ensure cost-effective student progression along the higher education lifecycle.

PESC achieves its mission by: 1) Leading the establishment and facilitating the adoption and implementation of data exchange standards; 2) Highlighting and supporting best practices for data access and exchange; 3) Maintaining collaborative relationships with all public, private, governmental, and international stakeholders; 4) Serving as a standards-setting body; 5) Advocating for operational efficiencies and simplification in student data exchange from initial access of the student from high school into the college environment through successful completion of the education experience; 6) Promoting cost effectiveness of data alignment across disparate systems and across sectors that help mitigate costs for institutions struggling to keep up with the demands of technology and real-time data exchange while maintaining competitive tuition rates; 7) Building a core competency in XML architecture and data modeling

More information about PESC can be found at http://www.PESC.org.