FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Sessa
PESC Executive Director
202-293-7383

PESC Announces Assembly on State of e-Authentication in Higher Education

August 4, 2004 (Washington DC) ~ In continuing its focus on standardizing student authentication, the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce its Assembly on the State of e-Authentication in Higher Education. The Assembly will take place on Friday August 20, 2004 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington VA and will run 8:30am – 4pm. Registration is free, but space is limited, so attendees must register online at http://www.PESC.org/Events/e-Authentication.asp.

In hosting this Assembly on e-Authentication, PESC is bringing together various leaders and experts within the higher education and technology communities. Over the coming year, higher education institutions, service providers, systems vendors, state and federal agencies, and all supporting suppliers to higher education will be making serious investments and commitments to online services. With the number of emerging technologies, standards, specifications, and frameworks, PESC is looking to ensure that information is shared and communicated so that decision makers have solid, reliable information on which to make informed decisions. Speakers for the State of e-Authentication in Higher Education include:

- **David Temoshok** – Director of Identity Policy and Management, U.S. General Services Administration – who will provide an update on the various federal government activities and initiatives related to e-Authentication. As Mr. Temoshok is Co-Chair of the Electronic Authentication Partnership (EAP), he will also provide an overview and update on activities related to the EAP.
- **David Yakimaschak** – Chief Technology Officer, JSTOR – who will discuss the general state of authentication and JSTOR's implementation of various authentication protocols, and introduce attendees to the newly formed federation called InCommon.
- **Howard Gilbert** – Senior Research Programmer, Yale University – who will discuss portal authentication issues, activities, and authentication implementation at Yale University.
- **Robert Morley** – Associate Registrar, University of Southern California, and Board of Directors member of both AACRAO and PESC – who will discuss authentication from the admissions and registrar perspective.
- **Scott Cantor** – Senior Systems Developer, Ohio State University and Shibboleth Architect and Core Developer, Internet2 – who will discuss SAML and communicate the future roadmap for Shibboleth including: relationships between various projects, how they might evolve over the next 12-24 months, and the interoperability and/or certification work that Shibboleth will be initiating in order to raise the level of interoperability.
- **Adele Marsh** – Vice President, E-Commerce Initiatives, AES – who will update attendees on the Meteor Network, the standards and processes it uses, and discuss the future enhancements to Meteor.
- **Mark Jones** – Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, National Student Clearinghouse – who will address high level business issues related to PKI and some of the specific challenges for higher education.
- **Bernie Gleason** – Executive Consultant, IBM – who will discuss the weakest portion of authentication security -- password security and poor user practices -- and explore ideas how to transition stronger
authentication practices for all customers and all interactions across the entire institution. Included will be a look at the way in which security tokens and biometrics may be deployed in the future.

The Assembly on the State of e-Authentication in Higher Education is being held in partnership with the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). FSA is again sponsoring a Software Developers Conference (SDC) to be held on Thursday August 19, 2004 also at the Marriott Crystal Gateway. The SDC is targeted at mainframe institutions, third-party servicers, and software developers and providers. This conference will provide the latest information available about changes and updates to federal student aid application and delivery services. Information and online registration for the SDC are available at: http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/swdAugust_04.htm. The registration deadline for the SDC is today August 4, 2004.

Hotel information and room reservation procedures can also be found at the link listed above. The sleeping room cut-off date is today August 4, 2004 as well. Attendees to the PESC Assembly on e-Authentication must use the room block and name as well to obtain discounted rates (“Software Developers”). For questions or concerns, please contact Ane Johnson, PESC’s Membership Coordinator, at 202-263-0296 or Michael Sessa, PESC’s Executive Director, at 202-293-7383 for more information. This Assembly is made possible by the generous support and sponsorship of Sungard SCT.

For more information on PESC, please visit 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; 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.