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NCHELP’s ESC Awarded 1st Place for “CRC” Beta Test in PESC Annual Best Practices Competition

SunGard Higher Education’s Ed Hauser, Sallie Mae’s Keith Riccitelli, and AACRAO SPEEDE’s Tom Stewart Honored with Distinguished Service Awards

May 11, 2006 (Washington DC) ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) announced the National Council of Higher Education Loan Program’s (NCHELP) Electronic Standards Committee (ESC) Winner of the 2005 PESC Best Practices Competition for its submission, the Common Record: CommonLine (“CRC”) Beta Test, at the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards held May 1-3, 2006 in Washington, D.C. The Best Practices Competition, now in its 7th year, is held by PESC to promote innovation and ingenuity in the application of standards for business needs.

In the spring of 2005, the ESC conducted a controlled Beta Test to exercise the version 1.0.6 of CRC documentation and version 1.0.2 of the XML schema to accelerate the discovery of issues in the standard as documented thereby allowing faster stabilization of the standard than would otherwise result from slow progressive testing by trading partners. Faster stabilization of the standard would promote its acceptance within the community and remove a barrier to its adoption. Seven industry partners volunteered, committing the time and resources to the projected 12-week testing and administration effort.

Test partner organizations included AES, ASA, Nelnet, Sallie Mae, Sigma Systems, USA Funds, and US Bank with additional support from AES, Citibank, Great Lakes, and NCHELP. The efforts of conducting the Beta Test resulted in significant improvements that will benefit the student loan industry in implementing CRC. CRC, a PESC approved national standard, is expected to support $40+ billion in annual student loan volume.
The winning submission from NCHELP ESC along with all past winners of Best Practices is available at http://www.PESC.org/Events/Best-Practices.asp.

PESC also honored Ed Hauser of SunGard Higher Education, Keith Riccitelli of Sallie Mae, and Tom Stewart of AACRAO's SPEEDE Committee with Distinguished Service Awards. Mr. Hauser, an active member of the Steering Committee of the PESC Standards Forum for Education, served as its Chair from 2002 – 2005. Mr. Riccitelli served as Chair of the PESC Board of Directors from 2000 – 2005. Mr. Stewart has served in a number of roles, most recently as Co-Chair of the High School XML Transcript Workgroup. All have been instrumental in helping PESC and the education community reach its goal of interoperability. All past recipients of PESC’s Distinguished Service Awards are available at http://www.PESC.org/About/Service-Awards.asp.

All awards were presented during the Opening Session of the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards, held May 1 – 3, 2006 in Washington DC. For more information, 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.