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PESC Launches Common XML & Common IP Workgroups in Collaborative Partnership with SIF and IMS
PESC and FSA Expand XML Registry & Repository to PK20 with CEDS Adoption

(Washington DC) – The Board of Directors of PESC – the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council, in collaborative partnership with the SIF Association and IMS Global Learning Consortium, is pleased to announce the formation of a Common XML Architecture and Data Modeling for Education Standards Workgroup and a Common Intellectual Property (IP) Policy for Education Standards Workgroup. In recent meetings all three associations agreed to investigate and collaborate on PK20 initiatives that provide clarity to the education community and that eliminate barriers.

In a similar effort PESC and the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education are seeking input on the role of the XML Registry & Repository for the Education Community as its perspective expands to PK20 with PESC’s adoption of Common Education Data Standards (CEDS). While administered by FSA for the education community, the Registry & Repository is governed by PESC and houses all of PESC’s approved standards.

“The Registry & Repository is a tremendous resource,” states Michael D. Sessa, PESC’s President & CEO. “While access is free and open to the general public as all PESC approved standards are, the development and approval process followed by community workgroups is highly analytical and rigorous, yet collaborative and transparent,” Sessa continues.

Both the Common XML Architecture and Data Modeling for Education Standards Workgroup and a Common Intellectual Property (IP) Policy for Education Standards Workgroup will launch on Thursday morning April 28, 2011 at PESC’s Spring 2011 Data Summit in Boston. The addition of these new workgroups expands the Summit and folks should ensure they consider these workgroups when registering or making travel arrangements. The discussion on the XML Registry & Repository takes place on Wednesday April 27, 2011. All information related to the Spring 2011 Data Summit, along with registration and a recent draft of the agenda, is available at http://www.PESC.org.

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ABOUT THE XML REGISTRY AND REPOSITORY FOR THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY

The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a web-based application written in Java running on IBM Websphere 5.1. It uses Jakarta Struts and JSP’s for the user presentation. The object relational data binding is Torque, and the database is Oracle 9i located at the Virtual Data Center (VDC). The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community conforms to ebXML Registry and Repository 2.5 specifications. More than the application itself though, the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a story of collaboration of government working in partnership with community based-standard organizations, of building it once and using it many times thus maximizing opportunities for all stakeholders, and of best practices.

In 2001, several standards organizations gathered together to work with FSA to work on an idea called the Common Record – one schema that streamlined data packet submission between schools and FSA. Over time, the scope of this effort expanded to creating an XML higher education taxonomy. The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a central location where now eleven years worth of collaborative work is stored and available to anyone who is interested in XML higher education meta-data.

The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community was a deliverable from the XML Framework 2.0 Initiative. FSA recognized that internally, an application would be needed to store XML meta-data so that this information could be used by future XML development efforts to encourage standardized and high quality schemas. When it became obvious that the community-based standard organizations would also need a meta-data repository, it seemed a natural step for FSA to share and donate its XML meta-data repository to PESC for community and school use. Owen Ambur, co-chair of the federal XML.gov organization, stated the following about the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community, “FSA’s registry has the best, most usable interface I have seen in any registry service yet.”

1 From a 2005 PESC announcement when FSA received PESC’s 2005 Best Practices Award for Innovation.

ABOUT PESC

Established in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a non-profit, community-based, 501 (c)(3) umbrella association of colleges and universities; college and university systems; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; non-profit organizations and associations; and state and federal government agencies. Through open and transparent community participation, PESC enables cost-effective connectivity between data systems to accelerate performance and service, to simplify data access and research, and to improve data quality along the higher education lifecycle.

PESC envisions national and international interoperability, that is a trustworthy, inter-connected environment built by and between communities of interest in which data flows seamlessly from one system to another and throughout the entire eco-system when and where needed without compatibility barriers but in a safe, secure, reliable, and efficient manner. To achieve the mission and the vision, PESC organizes activities to: accelerate performance and service, reduce cost, lead collaborative development, set and maintain common data standards, promote best practices, link public and private sectors, and serve as data experts.

While PESC promotes the implementation and usage of data exchange standards, PESC does not set (create or establish) policies related to privacy and security. Organizations and entities using PESC standards and services should ensure they comply with FERPA and all local, state, federal and international rules on privacy and security as applicable.

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

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