FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Course Catalog Workgroup, Taxonomy Workgroup and Certification Task Force to Launch at Fall 2006 Summit

September 12, 2006 (Washington DC) ~ The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is very pleased to announce the formation of the Course Catalog Workgroup, Taxonomy Workgroup, and Certification Task Force. All three efforts will launch and hold their initial meetings at the PESC Fall 2006 Summit being held in San Diego CA October 23-24, 2006.

The Course Catalog Workgroup will be co-chaired by Anne Valentine, President of SmartCatalog and Rick Skeel, Director of Academic Records at the University of Oklahoma and member of both the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee and the PESC Board of Directors. This workgroup will develop standard course definitions and data in XML.

The Taxonomy Workgroup will be co-chaired by Holly Hyland, Management Analyst with the US Department of Education’s Federal Student Aid. The efforts of this group will be broken down into two phases: in phase one, the group will review the classifications of core components as listed in the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community, to understand their structure and recommend any changes that may need to be made; in phase two, the group will expand the scope of their review to account for pk20 and recommend any changes that may need to be made.

The Certification Task Force will fall under the jurisdiction of the Technical Advisory Board, chaired by Steve Margenau of Great Lakes Education Loan Services, Inc.. This task force will investigate how certification and standards conformance testing is conducted in other similar standards-setting bodies and recommend to the Board of Directors how PESC should implement and manage certification and conformance testing for PESC standards.

Members and Affiliates of PESC are able to join and participate in any and/or all of these efforts. The Board of Directors has tasked the Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education to manage and oversee these three efforts. While initial meetings will be held during the Summit, subsequent and regularly scheduled meetings will be set for each group. Announcements and notifications of meetings will be made via email, included in The Standard, and posted on the PESC website.

For more information on the Fall 2006 Summit including hotel and registration, 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.