FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2007
Contact: Michael Sessa
PESC Executive Director
202-293-7383

Data Quality Campaign Wins Top Award in PESC’s 8th Annual Best Practices Competition
AACRAO Honored with Distinguished Service Award

Washington DC ~ The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is very pleased to announce the Data Quality Campaign as Winner of PESC Best Practices Competition for 2006. Executive Director Aimee Guidera will receive the award at the opening general session of the 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards being held April 23 – 25, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The Best Practices Competition is held by PESC to promote innovation and ingenuity in the application of standards for business needs.

Launched on November 17, 2005 at the Data Summit sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) was developed as a national, collaborative effort to encourage, support, and ensure that state policymakers and other education stakeholders understand not only the benefits of matching individual student records over time and across databases, but also the importance of developing these systems on common standards to ensure their use and applicability are not limited.

The campaign aims to provide tools and resources that will assist state development of quality longitudinal data systems, while providing a national forum for reducing duplication of effort and promoting greater coordination and consensus among the organizations focusing on improving data quality, access and use. The goals of the DQC are to have longitudinal education data systems in 50 states by 2009; increased understanding by policymakers and educators of how to use longitudinal and financial data in their efforts to improve student achievement, and; promotion of data standards and efficient data transfer and exchange.

PESC will also honor the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) with a Distinguished Service Award. AACRAO served for a number of years as secretariat to PESC providing a variety of services including office space and telephone, network, and human resources support. Executive Director Jerome Sullivan will receive the award at the opening general session of the conference.
session of the 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards being held April 23 – 25, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

About the Data Quality Campaign
The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) is a national, collaborative effort to encourage and support state policymakers to improve the collection, availability, and use of high-quality education data, and to implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. The campaign aims to provide tools and resources that will assist state development of quality longitudinal data systems, while also providing a national forum for reducing duplication of effort and promoting greater coordination and consensus among the organizations focusing on improving data quality, access and use. The DQC is managed by the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) and supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information, please visit www.DataQualityCampaign.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. For more information, please visit www.PESC.org.