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FIRST SEALS OF APPROVAL AWARDED BY PESC TO
CONNECTEDU AND PARCHMENT

SEAL OF APPROVAL BOARD VERIFIES ACCURATE IMPLEMENTATION

(Washington DC) – PESC is very pleased to announce that its first Seals of Approval have been awarded to ConnectEDU, Inc. and Parchment Inc. The Seal of Approval Program, under community development for a number of years and just recently launched, is a voluntary service offered by PESC for implementers of PESC Approved Standards to indicate a uniform level of implementation.

“Parchment is committed to driving industry standards for the exchange of credentials data among educational and professional organizations because it improves efficiencies from all sides,” said Matthew Pittinsky, Ph.D., CEO, Parchment Inc. “The PESC standards provide us with intelligent, flexible technical parameters for exchanging transcript data between the more than 9,000 high schools and colleges in the Docufide by Parchment and Naviance eDocs network, as well as the students managing their education credentials on Parchment.com. Working closely with PESC and its members, we will continue to collectively establish requirements that ultimately make the application process a better experience for individuals and institutions alike.”

“At ConnectEDU, we are passionate about adopting, maintaining and promoting industry best practices to benefit our customers, specifically around the use of data,” stated Jeffrey Alderson, Senior Director of Product Innovation, ConnectEDU, Inc. and PESC board member. “Our relationship with PESC began in 2007 when our college and career planning portal, Connect!, was the first purveyor of an XML transcript solution leveraging PESC standards. Since that time, our affiliation has gained momentum and we are proud to be acknowledged for our dedication to PESC standards by receiving their official Seal of Approval,” Mr. Alderson continued.

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Implementers must formally apply to PESC for the **Seal of Approval** using the official application available on the PESC website and must submit a small, non-refundable fee to PESC. The service was designed to communicate to the community at-large that a certain implementation of PESC Approved Standards has been uniformly implemented according to the original intent and spirit of the PESC Approved Standard. A **Seal of Approval** can be used by implementers to market products and services to demonstrate alignment and interoperability.

The actual Seal is the PESC logo with the “Seal of Approval” banner above it. Those awarded the **Seal of Approval** have been authorized to use this Seal to communicate to the community at-large this approval status. The Seal of Approval Board, comprised of institutional PESC members, governs the program and recommends to the PESC Board of Directors which applicants have successfully completed the program and should be awarded with an official **Seal of Approval**. To confirm which organizations have been awarded the **Seal of Approval**, please visit the PESC website under **Initiatives**.

For more information about the **Seal of Approval** and about PESC, please visit [www.PESC.org](http://www.PESC.org) or contact Jennifer Kim, PESC’s Membership Services Director, at 202.261.6514 or jennifer.kim@pesc.org or Michael Sessa, PESC’s President and CEO, at 202.261.6516 or michael.sessa@pesc.org.

**About PESC**

Established in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education and located in Washington, D.C., 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 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. For more information, see [www.PESC.org](http://www.PESC.org).

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