FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IPEDS Student Financial Aid Reporting & Global Functional Acknowledgement Approved through PESC as Education Community Data Standards

Vote Underway on IPEDS 12 Month Enrollment (4 Year and Less Than 4 Year) and Completions

(Washington, D.C.) – The Board of Directors of PESC - the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council is pleased to announce the release of Student Financial Aid Reporting of IPEDS – the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and the Global Functional Acknowledgement as Education Community Data Standards approved through PESC’s Standards Forum for Education. All supporting standards documentation will be made freely available within 30 days at http://www.PESC.org.

IPEDS data collection, administered under the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education, currently encompasses eight survey categories. The first phase of data standardization focuses on the student-based survey categories in which Graduation Rates, Fall Enrollment and now Student Financial Aid have already been approved through PESC’s Standards Forum for Education; while PESC members are currently voting to approve Twelve Month Enrollment and Completions as Education Community Data Standards.

The Functional Acknowledgement indicates that a file sent from one system or organization to another was successfully received. In most reporting and data collection initiatives, data submission guidelines are strictly adhered to if not mandatory, and without this type of confirmation which can be used globally for any standard or transaction, senders may not be aware of potential problems in the process.

PESC members that approved IPEDS Student Financial Aid and Global Functional Acknowledgement:

- AACRAO
- ACT
- Central Connecticut State University
- AcademyOne
- California Community College System
- College Board
For any organization looking to communicate their specific use and implementation of PESC approved standards, please contact Michael Sessa or Jennifer Kim directly at Michael.Sessa@PESC.org 202-261-6516 or Jennifer.Kim@PESC.org 202-261-6514 respectively. For more information on PESC or PESC approved standards, please visit www.PESC.org.

About IPEDS
Since its original development in the 1980s, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) has collected institution-level data from all primary providers of postsecondary education to generate information on trends at the national, state, and institutional levels. IPEDS is the major postsecondary education data collection program within the U.S. Department of Education, and encompasses all postsecondary institutions and educational organizations, both public and private, that provide education as their primary purpose.

Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), IPEDS was implemented to help NCES meet its mandate to report full and complete statistics on the condition of postsecondary education in the United States. IPEDS provides NCES with the basic data needed to describe the size of the postsecondary system in terms of students enrolled, staff employed, dollars expended, and degrees earned. As of the Fall of 2007, the IPEDS universe contained approximately 6,800 Title-IV participating institutions, and approximately 200 non-Title-IV institutions that participate voluntarily.

In 2000, IPEDS was redesigned to provide for web-based transmission of information, completely replacing the paper-and-pencil administration that had been used for more than a decade. The IPEDS data collection runs year-round, with a total of eight different survey components being active at different times of the year. Institutions complete the surveys via the web-based data collection system, or they can upload flat/ascii data files to complete their data submission requirements. Alternatively, they can do some of each by manually completing

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1 From IPEDS “Letter of Intent” to PESC, April 29, 2008
some survey components while uploading data for other survey components. In some cases, state agencies provide some or all of the data for many institutions within their state using the file upload option.

More information about IPEDS can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds.

**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.