NSLDS ENROLLMENT AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT REPORTING
DATA STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT INITIATED BY FSA AND PESC
NEW IPEDS XML VERSION 2.0.0 RECENTLY APPROVED AND RELEASED

Washington, D.C. – The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce that Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education, a Founding Member of PESC, has submitted a Letter of Intent notifying PESC and the higher education community of the need to develop interoperable data standards to support National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Enrollment and Gainful Employment Reporting required by institutions.

“Because of the extremely short development schedule necessary for this project, FSA has already begun communicating with PESC’s Change Control Board (CCB),” states the Letter of Intent submitted by Michael J. Fillinich, Director of Enterprise Data Services at FSA. “Data [for GE] are to be reported annually by the end of each federal fiscal year and stored in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)... which on a scheduled basis [NSLDS] will use these data, along with information supplied by other data providers to ED, to calculate various rates.”

Final drafts of the corresponding XML schemas for NSLDS Enrollment Reporting, Instance Documents and other supporting materials will be issued shortly by PESC for a 30-day public comment period. Corresponding materials and documentation for Gainful Employment Reporting will be issued at some time in the near future. At the same time, a number of student-based surveys for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) have been updated to version 2.0.0 and are posted and available on the PESC website as well.

About Enrollment Reporting
Since the passage of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, institutions have been required to confirm and report the enrollment status of attending students who receive Federal loans. This process is called Enrollment Reporting (formerly the Student Status Confirmation Report (SSCR)). Schools report the enrollment status of students receiving Title IV aid to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and this enrollment information is merged to the NSLDS database and reported to the guarantors, lenders, and servicers of student loans.

Because a student’s enrollment status determines deferment eligibility, grace periods, and repayment schedules, as well as the government’s payment of interest subsidies, Enrollment Reporting is critical for effective administration of Title IV aid.
loans. Enrollment Reporting is the primary means of verifying students’ loan privileges and the Federal government’s financial obligations.

In 1996, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) began using NSLDS to track the enrollment of all student loan borrowers. ED has incorporated Enrollment Reporting into NSLDS to centralize and fully automate the enrollment verification system. The Enrollment Reporting process benefits the entire student loan community: students, schools, Guaranty Agencies (GAs), the Direct Loan servicer, loan holders, and ED.

About Gainful Employment Reporting
Final regulations published in the Federal Register on October 29, 2010, require institutions to report certain information about students who enrolled in Title IV eligible educational programs that lead to gainful employment in a recognized occupation (GE programs). Those regulations also provide that institutions must disclose to prospective students certain information about the institution’s GE Programs.

Finally, the new regulations require institutions to notify the Department if they wish to add an additional GE Program to its list of Title IV eligible programs. All of these requirements are effective July 1, 2011. The Secretary published additional regulations related to the program eligibility metrics that will be calculated for gainful employment programs in the Federal Register on June 13, 2011.

The US Department of Education has posted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) located at http://ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/2011GEFAQ.html which provide information and operational guidance on the requirements of the new gainful employment regulations. Institutions must review the final regulations as published in the Federal Register on October 29, 2010, to ensure that they are in compliance with all of the Gainful Employment Program requirements. The listing of Frequently Asked Questions will be updated periodically and include the date of the update.

If you have questions or concerns that have not been addressed, please submit them to GE-Questions@ED.gov and include the name of the institution. All information related to Gainful Employment is posted and available at http://ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/index.html.

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.

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.