FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PESC Joins National Data Quality Campaign

New Partnership Looks to Align pK-12 and Postsecondary Data Systems

July 5, 2006 (Washington DC) ~ The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce that PESC has joined the Data Quality Campaign (DQC). The 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; implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. Its goals include: having longitudinal education data systems in 50 states by 2009; increasing 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. The campaign aims to provide tools and resources that will assist states in their 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.

On June 13, 2006, the DQC hosted a Quarterly Meeting in Washington, D.C. in which representatives from PESC participated. As part of the Data Quality Campaign's goal to provide a national forum for conversations about the power of longitudinal data, this Quarterly Meeting provided an opportunity to learn about an essential element of state data systems: aligning P-12 and postsecondary data. Speakers included: Hans P. L'Orange, Director of Data and Information Management and Director of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)/National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Network at SHEEO; Deborah Newby, Director for Data Quality, Council of Chief State School Officers; Peter Ewell, Vice President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS); David Spence, President, Southern Regional Education Board and former Vice Chancellor of the California State University system; Tod Massa, Policy Research and Data Warehousing Director, Virginia State Council of Higher Education. Attendees were welcomed at the opening by DQC Director Aimee Guidera.

As an endorsing partner, PESC will participate in the campaign by continuing to promote greater coordination and consensus among various organizations and sectors and by promoting the improvement of data quality, access, and use.
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The campaign is managed by the National Center for Educational Accountability and funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Quarterly meetings are made possible through the Council of Chief State School Officers’ National Education Data Partnership, generously funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Broad 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.

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