FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2011
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PESC Launches Seal of Approval Program
Voluntary Program to Identify Implementers of PESC Approved Standards

(Washington DC) The Board of Directors of PESC – the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council – is pleased to announce the launch of its Seal of Approval Program effective immediately. The PESC Seal of Approval Program is a voluntary service offered by PESC for implementers of PESC Approved Standards to indicate a uniform level of implementation. Implementers must formally apply to PESC for the Seal of Approval using the official application 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 Seal of Approval Program is a formal process governed by specific policies and procedures and by a Seal of Approval Board (SAB), comprised of PESC member representatives appointed by the PESC Board of Directors,” states Francisco Valines, Director of Financial Aid at Florida International University, Chair of the Seal of Approval Board and Vice Chair of the PESC Board of Directors. “The PESC membership has asked for this type of service for a while; and after lengthy discussion throughout the membership and community, we are very pleased and excited to launch this service now.”

For users, a product or service with a PESC Seal of Approval indicates that the product or service is in alignment and uniform with the original intent of the PESC Approved Standard. For providers of products and services, a PESC Seal of Approval indicates value in that the product or service was reviewed, analyzed and confirmed to be in alignment and uniform with the original intent of the PESC Approved Standard. For PESC, ensuring that products and services are in alignment and uniform with the original intent of PESC Approved Standards fulfills its mission and improves the level of awareness and need for interoperability across the education landscape. Moreover, a
Seal of Approval can be part of organizational RFP’s, can be marketed by the organization receiving the Seal of Approval in materials and on websites, and the organization receiving the Seal of Approval must link directly to the PESC website whereby the validity of a Seal of Approval can be confirmed.

The Seal of Approval Application and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are both available and posted on the PESC website at www.PESC.org.

**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. For more information about PESC, please visit [http://www.PESC.org](http://www.PESC.org).

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