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EdUnifySM Launches to Automate Electronic Lookup, Reporting and Exchange, PK12 and Workforce Linkages, and Transfer of Credit
Inaugural PESC Task Force Meeting December 17-18, 2009

Washington DC – The Board of Directors of PESC - the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce the launch of an inter-organizational Task Force focused on the development and implementation of EdUnifySM, a federated exchange network that will automate electronic services for student data in higher education.

The first phase of EdUnifySM will include a lookup service that lists integration services, access locations for electronic services, protocols, payloads and authentication which are advertised by data exchange partners in various configurations from hub-and-spoke to point-to-point. This lookup service enables institutions, states and others the ability to advertise their electronic services so others can find those services and automate their connections and their data trading needs.

"Mobility and changing learning patterns together obsolete long-standing paradigms and drive the reengineering of how data systems are built and used," states PESC Executive Director Michael Sessa. "The demand for improvement and political will have never been greater; and PESC continues to collaborate with stakeholders to answer this call and to provide this much needed infrastructure lacking in higher education," Mr. Sessa continues.

Subsequent phases of EdUnifySM will include national and international data exchange and reporting functionality, an agent to link PK12 and workforce systems with higher education systems, and functionality to enable timely disclosure to students through an academic transfer network regarding transferability of credits, among other services. Similar to the ATM network in banking, automation of electronic services in higher education simplifies access to data and data providers, lowers the cost of managing data and data systems, and accelerates performance and service over the long term.

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The launch of PESC's EdUnifySM Task Force will take place Thursday December 17, 2009 at the headquarters of the National Student Clearinghouse in Herndon, Virginia. The meeting will begin at 8:30am and conclude by noon on Friday December 18, 2009. Those interested in participating should contact PESC's Executive Director at michael.sessa@pesc.org or at 202.261.6516. Leadership of EdUnifySM includes project director David Moldoff of the PESC Board of Directors and CEO and Founder of AcademyOne; and co-chairs Ed Hauser, Student Product Manager for SunGard Higher Education, and Stephen Wheat, Chief IT Architect at Emory University and active member of OpenEAI.

PESC member organizations participating in the EdUnify Task Force include:

- AcademyOne
- Avow Systems
- California Community College System
- ConnectEdu
- Datatel
- Decision Academic
- Docufide
- Edstructures/Pearson
- Emory University
- National Student Clearinghouse
- Oracle
- redLantern
- SCRIP-Safe International
- Smart Catalog
- Stanford University
- SunGard Higher Education
- XAP

The Apollo Group, Google, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Inside Higher Education, Kaplan Higher Education, Nelnet and RS3G have expressed interest in participating as well.

For more information on PESC, please visit 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 501(c)(3), community-based, 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.