FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2007
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Transcript Workgroup Proposes Request and Response Specifications as Education Community Standards
Public Comment Period Now Open

(Washington DC) ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce that the Transcript Workgroup of the Standards Forum for Education has proposed Request and Response specifications as approved and recognized education community standards.

“Although the vast majority of student/alumni transcript requests are currently fulfilled manually via security paper and the U.S. postal service, an increasing number of institutions have chosen to provide web-based, self-service ordering either internally or through outsourced transcript ordering and tracking services,” states Doug Falk, CIO of the National Student Clearinghouse and Chair of the development workgroup.

“The manual process suffers from the usual inefficiencies associated with any manual process: data entry errors, the need to re-key data, limited visibility of order status, consumption of valuable staff resources and cost associated with security paper and mailing. The proposed schemas support the automated request and response process for both institution and student initiated requests,” Mr. Falk continues.

With the development work completed and submitted on May 7, 2007, the Request and Response Specifications are now immediately ready for public comment period. The complete submission can be accessed at http://www.pesc.org/workgroups/rrxmltranscript/. The public comment period begins Tuesday May 22, 2007 and will be thirty (30) calendar days. Public comment period expires at the close of business on Thursday June 21, 2007. All comments, from the PESC Membership and the public, shall be made in the form of an e-mail to the PESC Executive Director at: Sessa@PESC.org. The comment e-mail should clearly identify the:

1) Responder name and appropriate contact information;
2) Source of the comments, i.e., whether the comments are individual or represent those of a group the responder represents;
3) Nature of the responder’s interest in the standard (what is the issue and why is it important?);
4) Element(s) of the proposed standard with which issue is taken;
5) Changes suggested to resolve the issue(s).

All documentation (including schemas, instance documents, and implementations guides) are posted on the PESC website at http://www.pesc.org/workgroups/rrxmltranscript/.

The Process

Within 30 calendar days after the close of the public comment period, the Change Control Board (CCB) of the Standards Forum for Education will address and consider all public comments and make, in consultation with the Transcript Workgroup any necessary revisions. All public comments will be posted to the PESC website during the review process. The CCB’s consideration/revision period expires on Monday July 23, 2007 unless extenuating circumstances exist which require further deliberation.

Once any changes resulting from the public comment period have been incorporated, the CCB will recommend to the Standards Forum’s Steering Committee and the PESC Board of Directors that the Specification be submitted to a vote by the PESC Members. The Board will have seven (7) calendar days to approve the submission or refer it back to the CCB with specific instructions for further work. The PESC office will issue electronic ballots to the official contacts of voting Member organizations.

Completed ballots, including the reason(s) for any rejection, shall be returned to the PESC office via e-mail attachment, fax, overnight delivery, or U.S. Postal Service within ten (10) business days. PESC staff is responsible for the tabulation of the ballots; acceptance of the Specification as a standard requires an affirmative vote of at least 80% of all votes cast. Once the Members accept the Specification, the Board of Directors will within seven (7) calendar days ratify the vote, publish/post all necessary documents and communications, and implement version control on all documents. Approved standards are freely accessible on the PESC website (www.PESC.org).

For more information, please visit www.PESC.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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