FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NCHELP ESC Proposes “CRC” as Education Community Standard**

*Public Comment Period Now Open*

September 1, 2005 (Washington DC) ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce that the Electronic Standards Committee (ESC) of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) has proposed “Common Record: CommonLine (CRC)” as an approved and recognized education community standard.

“This submission is the culmination of a multi-year team effort to create an XML-based data exchange standard for the origination processing of FFELP and alternative education loans that provides enhanced processing capabilities and system interoperability opportunities for schools and their software providers.” stated Bob King Director of Industry Initiatives for Citibank – The Student Loan Corporation and ESC Co-Chair. “The development of CRC has followed best practices and PESC standards.” Mr. King continued.

The ESC, PESC’s Standards Forum for Education, and the entire education community have worked closely over the past few years to develop an objective, sound process for approving standards (see [http://www.PESC.org/info/Policies- Procedures.asp](http://www.PESC.org/info/Policies-Procedures.asp)). With that in mind, as certain steps within PESC’s process of approving a candidate standard are already satisfied, CRC is immediately ready for public comment. The complete submission can be accessed at [http://www.PESC.org/Workgroups/CommonRecord/](http://www.PESC.org/Workgroups/CommonRecord/). The public comment period will be thirty (30) calendar days and expires at the close of business on Friday September 30, 2005. 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 CRC (what is the issue and why is it important?);
4) Element(s) of CRC with which issue is taken;
5) Changes suggested to resolve the issue(s).

**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 ESC 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 October 31, 2005 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 candidate 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 candidate as a standard requires an affirmative vote of at least 80% of all votes cast. Once the Members accept the candidate, 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 in the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community (www.FSAxmlRegistry.ED.gov).

For more information on ESC, please visit www.NCHELP.org. For more information on PESC, 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.