FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Data Transport Workgroup Proposes Specification for Education Community Standard
Public Comment Period Now Open

February 17, 2006 (Washington DC) ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce that the Data Transport Workgroup of the Standards Forum for Education has proposed its Data Transport Specification as an approved and recognized education community standard.

"I have been involved with PESC the last several years as it developed standard naming conventions (Registry and Repository) and formats (Schemas) for information shared in the higher education community," states Kim Shiflette, Product Manager at USA Funds, a founding PESC member; and Chair of the Data Transport Workgroup. "The Data Transport Standard provides the next logical step of standard-setting within PESC – a standard to "move" any information from one place to another in an immediate and secure manner with guaranteed delivery," Ms. Shiflette continues.

Together, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Program's (NCHELP) Electronic Standards Committee (ESC), PESC's Standards Forum for Education, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admissions Officer's (AACRAO) Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange (SPEEDE) Committee, 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.) With the development work completed and submitted on February 6, 2006, the Data Transport Specification is now immediately ready for public comment period. The complete submission can be accessed at http://www.PESC.org/Workgroups/DataTransport/. The public comment period begins Friday February 17, 2006 and will be thirty (30) calendar days. Public comment period expires at the close of business on Monday March 20, 2006. 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).
The Submission Letter, Business Case and History Letter, and PESC Response Letter are all posted to the website and will also be attached to next edition of the Standard.

**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 Data Transport 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 April 19, 2006 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](http://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.