FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Users of EDI and XML High School and College Transcripts Converge to Launch Transcript User Group
Transcript User Group Launches at PESC Fall 2008 Member Summit

Washington DC – The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce the launch of an inter-organizational User Group that will focus on utilization and development of standardized, electronic transcripts. While many colleges, universities, and software and systems providers are using the EDI versions, many are also either currently using the XML versions or plan on implementing them in the very near future. Use of both the high school and college transcript standards can be tracked throughout the United States and into Canada.

“We [at the National Transcript Center] applaud the development of the PESC XML high school transcript standard and are now using it with our clients. While extremely flexible and comprehensive, we have noted a few areas where the PK-12 community has some additional data needs,” states Barbara S. Clements, Ph.D., Chief Standards Officer for the National Transcript Center and PESC Board member. “This is common when a new standard gets used in a variety of circumstances. We are looking forward to working with the PESC Transcript User Group to further enhance the high school transcript standard,” Ms. Clements continues.

The launch of the transcript user group will take place during PESC’s Fall 2008 Member Summit being held Monday October 6 – 7, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. The tentative schedule for the overall Summit is posted on the PESC website at www.PESC.org. In addition to the launch of the transcript user group, the Summit includes meetings of: the Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education, the Change Control Board (CCB), the Technical Advisory Board (TAB), the EA2 Task Force, the Seal of Approval Group, and the PESC Board of Directors. Additionally, PESC is also launching a PDF Transcript Workgroup. More information about this workgroup will be announced shortly.

For the transcript user group, attendees are encouraged to submit issues, problems, and requested enhancements to the PESC office prior to the Summit. All issues will be compiled and then presented to the User Group for review. All issues from the high
school, college, XML and EDI transcripts are welcome for review and discussion. Going forward, most work will be conducted via teleconference call meetings facilitated by a chair who will be appointed by the User Group itself.

User Groups will serve as the development vehicles for future releases once a standard (v 1.0) has been established. PESC is pleased to offer participation in User Groups free of charge for members of PESC. Non-members interested in participating should contact PESC Executive Director Michael Sessa at 202.261.6516 or at michael.sessa@pesc.org.

Registration for the Fall 2008 Member Summit [which includes the transcript user group] is available by completing a registration form posted at www.PESC.org and submitting it along with a check for $150 (for Members). For hotel reservations:

**PESC Fall 2008 Member Summit**
Date: October 6 – 7, 2008
Group Name: PESC
Group Rate: $189 single/double
Hotel Cut-Off: September 13, 2008
Phone: 703.418.1234
Address: Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport
2799 Jefferson Davis Highway,
Arlington, Virginia, USA 22202

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

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**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 and serves as a standards-setting and development body. 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.