3rd Annual Conference on Technology & Standards in Higher Education Announced

The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), the Education Finance Council (EFC), the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education will be held May 1 – 3, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

Due to the overwhelming success of the first two Annual Conferences, the four associations are continuing to focus on technological issues important to their respective memberships under one efficient venue. The conference is targeted toward technical staff and upper management responsible for technology decisions. Once again, this conference includes the full support and participation of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

In partnering together, CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC are jointly plan-

See Conference, Page 2
Update on the Internet Server at UT Austin

Use of encryption with the UT Internet Server, while optional, has been strongly encouraged since day one. The suggestion that all transmissions via the Internet Server be secured was noted in the November 2002 report from our Internal Auditors when they reviewed the service (see http://www.utexas.edu/student/giac/speede/server/EDIServerAudit021119.pdf).

Time has come for us to require all transmissions via the Server be secured. We have been mentioning this pending requirement for the past year at our ACRAO meetings and have made several hardware and software upgrades to aid adoption of current encryption methods.


Effective March 1, 2006 PGP encryption or SFTP will be required for all transmissions. In addition, due to routine system upgrades, effective February 1, 2006, transmissions from the UT Internet Server will originate from a different IP address than present. If you have firewalls in place regulating deliveries based on IP address, you will need to plan for this upgrade. To obtain this new IP address or for more information, please contact Internet Server Admin at regist@ediserver.reg.utexas.edu.

We appreciate your understanding regarding this change and the value of securing educational records. We are also investigating use of FTPS as a secured method. If you’re interested in testing FTPS, please contact SPEEDE Server Admin at regist@ediserver.reg.utexas.edu.

--V. Shelby Stanfield  
Director, Student Information Systems

Conference, From Page 1

A joint conference committee, with representatives from the four partner organizations, has been formed to finalize all sessions topics and speakers. Announcements of sessions and speakers will be made shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director, at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

See the attached press release for more information.

Hotel reservations can be made now by contacting the Wyndham Washington directly at 202-429-1700 or at 800-996-3426 or online at www.Wyndham.com. The Wyndham Washington is located at 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C. A conference rate of $180 has been reserved for single/double hotel rooms. If calling for reservations, the group name is “PESC”; for online reservations, use “0426648POS.” The cut-off date to receive the discounted rate is April 10, 2006.
Technology Tidbits
and Standards Snippets

A group of colleges, libraries, and technology companies has asked a federal court to overturn a ruling, issued by the Federal Communications Commission, that facilitates Internet wiretapping. The October 05 ruling, requires ISPs and colleges to rewire their networks so that federal investigators can more easily track individuals’ Web browsing and e-mail use. The American Association of Community Colleges, the Association of American Universities, and the American Library Association have sent a 71-page brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., arguing that the FCC has overstepped its bounds.

Researchers at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor have created the world’s first quantum microchip. The scientists achieved the breakthrough by building an “ion trap” — a minuscule device that isolates individual charged atoms and uses the power of their charges, not the power of transistors, to run a computer.

Scientists at the University of Rutgers at Camden have designed authentication tools that ask users to hit hidden “click points” on an image, or to select specific icons within a large collection of icons, to graphically represent a password instead of entering an alphanumer-

UT Austin Internet Server ‘SPEEDEs’ Along

November 2005 volume included:

- 42,242 TS130 transcripts
  27% increase over last year
- 35,525 TS131 acknowledgements
- 12,026 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 66,391 TS189 Admission Applications
- 26,412 TS138 test score reports
- 202,113 total transactions
  35% increase over last year

December 2005 volume included:

- 43,814 TS130 transcripts
  up 18% over December 2004
- 35,817 TS131 acknowledgements
- 12,325 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 50,769 TS189 Admission Apps
  up 27% over December 2004
- 38,517 TS138 test score reports
- 203,514 total transactions
  1,914,683 transactions for 2005
  up 18% over 2004
ic string. The graphic password is considered much more difficult to guess than the typical passwords created by users.

- **January 25, 2006 was the 20th birthday of the PC computer virus – Brain.** Brain, a boot sector virus that propagated via floppy disk, was the first virus written for a Personal Computer and it targeted the newly released IBM PC.

- **Apple Computer will allow colleges to set up customized portions of the iTunes Music Store to distribute course content and other audio and video material.** The free service, called iTunes U, will let institutions limit the use of some materials as well as make other content available to anyone.

- **Researchers at Harvard University and the University of Oxford are starting a project aimed at stemming the onslaught of spam, spyware and the like.** The project is financially backed by Google and Sun Microsystems. Additional information is available to Chronicle subscribers at http://chronicle.com/daily/2006/01/2006012601t.htm

- **Fueled by the ever increasing computer literacy of prospective college students and a monetary discount for online applications, more than half of prospective students used Internet forms to seek admission in 2004.** Web-based application systems seem especially popular with people applying for early decision. At the University of Virginia, 89 percent of early-decision applicants used the Web this year, according to its campus newspaper, The Cavalier Daily.

- **The University of Texas at Austin now runs the most powerful supercomputer in the Lone Star State.** The machine will make its debut in March, when scientists at NASA use it for a project that examines gravity fields and global climate change.

- **The Chronicle of Higher Education recently reported that the United Nations has joined an effort led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to build $100 laptops and give them to schoolchildren around the world.** Chronicle subscribers may access the article in full at http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/index.php?id=971.

- **Florida’s Board of Governors has urged that the states Colleges and Universities be allowed to impose technology fees on students.** The board’s new legislative proposal would grant universities the authority to levy their own fees, as long as they stay within board-set limits, according to The Tampa Tribune.

- **Hand scanners, electronic fingerprint readers, even retina scanners are increasingly in use at colleges to identify people seeking access to campus buildings.** Proponents of biometric technology say it offers security and efficiency. But it is costly, and skeptics worry that it may invade the privacy of students and employees.

- More than 200 college leaders gathered this fall to talk about the role of technology in higher education and its effect on teaching and learning. “Special Report: Academe in the Digital Age” deals with topics discussed at the forum, which was organized by The Chronicle and the technology-research firm Gartner. You can also listen to several of the sessions in streaming audio with a Chronicle subscription. Visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/12/special_report_.html.

- Most schoolchildren consider the Internet an invaluable research tool. But their parents don’t agree, according to a new study conducted by researchers at the University of Southern California’s Center for the Digital Future. The report, “Surveying the Digital Future,” finds while more than four in five students consider the Internet “very important” or “extremely important” to their school research, according to the report, three out of four parents say the Internet has had no effect on their children’s grades.

- As computer-savvy college students avoid suspicious-looking emails that could infect their computers, malicious programmers are taking greater pains to disguise their viruses. At a number of institutions viruses that travel over instant-messaging software have spread like wildfire. And some coders who still prefer e-mail viruses have stooped to new depths to trick students into downloading infected images. A new e-mail scam making the rounds claims to offer pictures of a dangerous rape suspect, but the files, if downloaded, can weaken computers’ security.

- As their wireless networks continue to expand, a number of institutions are experimenting with programs that let students rent laptop computers for the duration of their college careers. Two colleges at Iowa State run their own rent-to-own laptop services, and hundreds of students have taken advantage of the offers, according the Iowa State Daily.

- If you’re going to be designing a new XML language, first of all, consider not doing it. But if you really have to, a recent submission by Tim Bray discusses the problems you’re apt to face and offers some advice on improving your chances of success. For more information, visit www.tbray.org/ongoing/When/200x/2006/01/09/On-XML-Language-Design.

- Students who take distance-education courses don’t necessarily live a long distance from the college offering them, according to a study by the governing board for South Dakota’s state universities. The report found that 42 percent of students taking online courses were living on the campus of the university that offered the courses. Students cite avoiding commutes and early-morning classes as reasons for taking online courses.
CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC Announce
3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards
in Higher Education

January 17, 2006 Washington DC ~ The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), the Education Finance Council (EFC), the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education to be held May 1 – 3, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

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In partnering together, CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC are jointly planning and developing this conference, and PESC will serve as overall administrator. Members and/or Affiliates from any of the four associations are eligible for the discounted registration rate of $475. The non-Membership rate is $700. Hotel reservations can be made now by contacting the Wyndham Washington directly at 202-429-1700 or at 800-996-3426 or online at www.Wyndham.com. The Wyndham Washington is located at 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C. A conference rate of $180 has been reserved for single/double hotel rooms. If calling for reservations, the group name is “PESC”; for online reservations, use “0426648POS.” The cut-off date to receive this discounted rate is April 10, 2006. Conference registration is also available online at http://www.PESC.org/events/TechStandards/Third/.
A joint conference committee, with representatives from all 4 partner organizations, has been formed to finalize all sessions and speakers, and announcements with final sessions and speakers will be made shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director, at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

About CBA
The Consumer Bankers Association is the recognized voice on retail banking issues in the nation's capital. Member institutions are the leaders in consumer financial services, including auto finance, home equity lending, card products, education loans, small business services, community development, investments, deposits and delivery. CBA was founded in 1919 and provides leadership, education, research and federal representation on retail banking issues such as privacy, fair lending, and consumer protection legislation/regulation. CBA members include most of the nation’s largest bank holding companies as well as regional and super community banks that collectively hold two-thirds of the industry’s total assets. CBA’s Education Funding Committee is the public policy voice for private-market capital to fund loans supporting America’s students. The special challenges facing American higher education necessitate that voice more than ever, particularly as Congress begins reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

About EFC
The Education Finance Council (EFC) is a non-profit trade association that represents non-profit state-based student loan secondary market organizations including scholarship funding corporations throughout the country. These public purpose organizations are dedicated to the single purpose of making sure students can get the money and other support they need to go to college. Secondary markets expand access to higher education in two main ways: by ensuring the availability of funding for student loans and by making it easier and less expensive to pay for college. Secondary markets, along with lenders, guaranty agencies and other service providers are participants in the Federal Family Education Loan Program. This landmark federal program has been opening the doors of higher education for over 40 years.

About NCHELP
Based in Washington, DC, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, Inc. (NCHELP) represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collectors, schools and other organizations involved in the administration of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Since its founding, NCHELP has represented its members on public policy and regulatory issues with the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. NCHELP members promote student access and choice for postsecondary education and training. A key objective is to keep the public informed about the availability of FFELP loans as a method to ensure open access to a postsecondary education. NCHELP’s members provide guaranteed loan assistance under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, which consists of four different loan programs: subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Program and Federal Consolidation Loan Program.

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.