CBA, EFC, NCHELP, and PESC Announce 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education - Registration Now Open!

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 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education to be held April 23 - 25, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

With this conference, the four associations continue 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 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 $500. The non-Membership rate is $750. Hotel reservations can be made now by contacting the Wyndham Washington directly 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 $185 has been reserved for single/double hotel rooms. If calling for reservations, the group name is “PESC”; for online reservations, use “0422648ESC”. The cut-off date to receive this discounted hotel rate is March 30, 2007. Conference registration is also available online at www.PESC.org.

The conference begins at 8:30am on Monday, April 23, 2007, includes six general sessions that will feature prominent and authoritative speakers, eighteen concurrent sessions, and concludes by noon on Wednesday April 25, 2007. A joint conference committee, with representatives from all four partner organizations, has been formed to finalize all concurrent sessions and speakers. If you have any questions or wish to sponsor the 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards, please contact Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director, at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org. The agenda for the conference can be found on page 9.
PESC Members Elect Steering Committee for Standards Forum for Education

At the annual fall membership meeting held October 23, 2006 in San Diego, CA, Members of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) elected seven members of the Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education.

Elected for one year terms that run January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, are:

- Paula Brower, SunGard Higher Education
- Adriana Farella, Xap Corporation
- Holly Hyland, Office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education
- Robert King, Citibank Student Loan Corp.
- Adele Marsh, AES
- Bruce Marton, University of Texas at Austin
- Eddie Upton, University of Mississippi

Under the guidance of the PESC Board of Directors, the Steering Committee provides overall direction for the Standards Forum for Education and manages all development workgroups (Admission Application, Data Transport, Degree Audit Request/Response, High School XML Transcript, Online Loan Counseling, Student Aid Inquiry, XML Transcript Request/Response, Test Score Report, Taxonomy, and Course Catalog) and boards (Change Control Board, Submission Advisory Board, and Technical Advisory Board).

Founded on August 4, 2000, the Standards Forum for Education sets and maintains standards for use in data exchanges between colleges and universities and their various trading partners.

To date, the Standards Forum for Education has produced four PESC approved standards (Common Record: CommonLine - CRC, the Data Transport Standard, the High School XML Transcript, and the Postsecondary XML Transcript), an extensive Policies and Procedures Manual which includes PESC Guidelines for XML Architecture and Data Modeling, Documentation Standards, and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community.

Subsequently, at the beginning of 2007, Steering Committee members elected Adele Marsh from AES as Chair and Bob King of Citibank as Vice Chair. The Board of Directors thanks Holly Hyland of the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) who served as Chair in 2006.

New Members

We welcome the following organizations to the PESC Membership:

**JustIQ**
PESC contact is Olin Hyde, VP of Sale and Marketing.  
www.JustIQ.com

**Regent Education**
PESC contact is Leonard Gude, Vice President of Financial Aid Solutions.  
www.RegentEducation.com

**University of Lethbridge**
PESC contact is Debi Sandul, Associate Registrar.  
www.ULeth.ca

A press release about the new member organizations can be found on page 11.
The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce that the Online Loan Counseling Workgroup of the Standards Forum for Education has proposed its Online Loan Counseling XML Schema as an approved and recognized education community standard.

Loan counseling is required under the Higher Education Act of 1965 for all students receiving federal student aid. Counseling is administered by an institution (or the institution’s service provider) and occurs twice, when the student initially receives aid (called “entrance counseling”) and then before the student graduates (called “exit counseling”).

With advancements in technology, counseling can be conducted online and a number of service providers provide online loan counseling products to institutions and borrowers.

Currently, these providers use proprietary file layouts. Institutions, guarantors, lenders, servicers, and others retrieve or receive loan counseling records from these service providers. If these entities are using multiple providers though, identification and matching of data elements and records and data integrity in general become significant challenges. In addition, the ability to upload files to financial aid management system (FAMS) is complicated, as the layouts don’t follow industry standards.

“The higher education community will truly benefit from online loan counseling data exchange standards,” states CariAnne Behr of Mapping Your Future and Chair of the Online Loan Counseling Workgroup. “Entities receiving counseling data will be able to identify elements, regardless of the loan counseling provider. These same entities will be able to more easily upload data into their systems.”

The Workgroup is comprised of a wide range of representatives from guarantors, lenders, servicers, Mapping Your Future, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

With the development work completed and submitted on October 20, 2006, XML Online Loan Counseling is now immediately ready for public comment period. The complete submission can be accessed at http://www.PESC.org/Workgroups/OnlineLoan/. The public comment period begins Thursday January 25, 2006 and will be thirty (30) calendar days. Public comment period expires at the close of business on Thursday March 8, 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).

The Implementation Guide, Instance Document, Schema, and corresponding version of Core Main are all posted on the PESC website, http://www.PESC.org/Workgroups/OnlineLoan/.

The Process
Within 30 calendar days after the close of the public com-
the Standard page 4

Sponsorship Opportunities for the 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards

The 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education will be held April 23-25, 2007 in Washington DC! The conference is targeted toward technical staff and upper management responsible for technology decisions. As in the previous years, 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).

We currently have a number of sponsorship opportunities available. If your organization is interested in sponsorship please complete the Sponsorship Registration Form, found in the Sponsorship Opportunities Packet, and return it to Jennifer Kim, PESC Membership Services Manager via fax or email at your earliest convenience.

The Sponsorship Opportunities Packet is available at http://www.pesc.org/events/techstandards/fourth/#sponsor. Sponsorship is available on a first come, first serve basis, so submit your Registration Form as early as possible! You may refer to the Sponsorship Opportunities Packet for details regarding sponsorship levels and benefits.

As a reminder, registration for the Annual Conference is now up and running! Please visit www.PESC.org for more conference details and to register. If you have any questions regarding sponsorship or registration for this event, feel free to contact Jennifer Kim at (202) 263-0296 or at Jennifer.Kim@PESC.org.

Standard, from Page 3

ment 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 Online Loan Counseling 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 Thursday April 19, 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).
Internet2 Community Demonstrates Shibboleth Middleware Interoperability

For the first time on December 7, 2006 the Internet2 community demonstrated the interoperability of its Shibboleth federated identity management software with the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) FastLane online grant administration system. The interoperability demo is the first step in a program to establish large-scale interoperation between the InCommon Federation, serving U.S. higher education and its partners, and the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation, serving U.S. government agencies. The event marks a major milestone in allowing the research and education community to use their existing campus’ identities to access essential online federal government resources.

NSF’s FastLane is used by over 250,000 researchers, students, faculty and other research professionals to efficiently manage their grants and proposals via a secure web interface. The demonstration, which took place at the Internet2 Fall Member Meeting allowed Principal Investigators at the University of Washington, Penn State University, and Stanford University to use their campus-issued sign-on credentials, enabled through Shibboleth, to access FastLane services.

Parvati Dev, Director of SUMMIT, the learning research lab at Stanford University School of Medicine, who participated in the demonstration observed, "As a medical researcher I know the importance of controlling access to sensitive information and protecting people’s privacy. I appreciate that this system is secure, and is easy for me to use and provides a more streamlined way for me to access my online grant proposals and other important grant information related to my research work. I also assist federal agencies in reviewing research proposals from other universities and again, secure, private access is absolutely necessary."

Shibboleth, a SAML-based software suite, provides Web Single Sign On (SSO) capability and a secure attribute exchange framework to enable individual access to an unlimited number of online resource providers. Shibboleth leverages an institution’s existing sign-on and directory system to authenticate users and then passes only relevant identity information to the provider. The system removes the need for universities to set up multiple passwords and accounts for each online resource. To date, Shibboleth has been deployed by thousands of research and education institution sites worldwide.

Kevin Morooney, Vice Provost for Information Technology at Penn State University said, "Creating online credentials for individual access to protected resources has traditionally resulted in a great deal of administrative overhead for campus IT departments as well as additional security burdens for the users who need to remember multiple logins and passwords. Today’s demonstration highlights how we can make research and academic life easier for faculty, students, and researchers as well as enable institutions and the NSF to save on operating costs while improving security and individual privacy."

Dr. George O. Strawn, the NSF Chief Information Officer, also observed the value to the research community, saying "using the federated identity management model enables single sign-on meaning more IT security and less time spent keeping up with logins. This can translate into more time for research and education activities. NSF has a long-standing commitment to funding transformative middleware initiatives such as Shibboleth. The U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation and the InCommon Federation working together will enable NSF to leverage authenticated credentials from its academic partner institutions."

In the future, the system will allow an unlimited number of qualified users to access FastLane from partnerships between the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation and the InCommon federation for U.S. research and education. This pilot program with NSF also lays the groundwork for inter-federation between InCommon and E-Authentica-tion. In doing so, potentially millions of students, educators, researchers, and staff in the U.S. higher education community will be able to more easily access a vast range of Federal agency applications that have become essential to their aca-
Shibboleth, from Page 5

Georgia K. Marsh, Deputy Program Manager for the E-Authentication Initiative, Federal Acquisition Service, General Services Administration, said, "The mission of E-Authentication is to provide secure access to government services to citizens, businesses, other governments and communities of all kinds. Working with the higher education community via InCommon enables us to provide access to key services more securely and cost-effectively. We are excited about the integration of the Authentication Service Component into agency applications, such as those in the Department of Education that are used by millions of students."

RL "Bob" Morgan, Senior Technology Architect at the University of Washington and Chair of the Middleware Architecture Committee for Education (MACE) added, "Today's demonstration with FastLane marks an important milestone in realizing and validating our vision of creating interconnected trust communities for seamless and secure access to information and services. Through important partnerships between research and education, government and industry, as we have demonstrated today, we believe the federated identity management approach is becoming the industry standard for secure and privacy-preserving access to protected resources of all kinds."

About FastLane

FastLane (www.fastlane.nsf.gov) is a web-based grants management system used by over 250,000 scientists, educators, technology experts and administrators, including the country's top researchers, to prepare and submit NSF proposals for funding, check on the status of their proposals, peer-review these proposals, prepare and submit revised budgets, prepare and submit post-award notifications, and report on the progress of their government-funded research. Organizations can also request funding increments and report on billions of dollars in expenditures through FastLane.

About Internet2(R)

Internet2 is the foremost U.S. advanced networking consortium. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that together facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. Internet2 brings the U.S. research and academic community together with technology leaders from industry, government and the international community to undertake collaborative efforts that have a fundamental impact on tomorrow's Internet. For more information: http://www.internet2.edu

About the Federal E-Authentication Initiative

The General Services Administration's Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) is the managing partner for the E-Authentication Initiative, one of 25 Presidential initiatives designed to expand the use of electronic government. The Initiative developed the framework and service to enable a secure, consistent and standardized approach for on-line identity verification of citizens, businesses and other governments to Federal government applications and services. The chosen solution was establishment of the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation wherein government agencies can rely on identity credentials, such as PINs/user ID's/passwords, issued and managed by other organizations within and outside the Federal government. Members of the Federation are Relying Parties (Federal agency applications) and Credential Service Providers that have adopted a set of agreements, standards and technologies to make identity portable across multiple domains. For more information: http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication

About InCommon(R)

The InCommon Federation provides higher education institutions and their sponsored resource partners with unparalleled privacy, security, and scalability for accessing protected online resources. InCommon is based on the concept of federated administration enabling participants to become part of an association of organizations that agree on a set of attributes and policies to exchange information about their users for access to restricted resources. As a limited liability company, InCommon is operated by Internet2 and managed by an independent Steering Committee representing the higher education and research community. For more information, visit http://www.incommonfederation.org.

The outsourcing of information-technology operations, the deployment of wireless technology, and the use of Internet-based telephone and video communications are among the growing IT practices at colleges, according to an annual survey released last week by Educause, reports the Chronicle of Higher Education. For additional information, visit www.educause.edu.

The U.S. Education Department has elevated its community-college-liaison post to a senior-level position and named Patricia Stanley, a former president of Frederick Community College in Maryland, as deputy assistant secretary of education for community colleges. Stanley will work in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, however exactly which programs she will run has yet to be announced.

Internet2 unveiled the first piece of Abilene, a next-generation network that should be considerably faster than the current one. When completed, the new fiber-optic network will carry data on 10 wavelengths of light, each of which can transmit 10 gigabits of data per second.

Microsoft Corp. has won approval for its Office Open XML document format from international standards body ECMA International. ECMA’s General Assembly voted by 20-1 in favor of the standard and will now submit the format to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for its approval. The vote against came from a representative of IBM Corp.

Universal Business Language v2.0 has been approved as
an OASIS Standard. UBL defines a common XML library of business documents (purchase orders, invoices, etc.).

The OpenDocument ISO Standard, which was approved by ISO in May 2006, has now been published as ISO/IEC 26300:2006, and is available in the ISO store. The equivalent OpenDocument v1.0 OASIS standard is available at the OASIS web site: http://opendocument.xml.org/iso-publication.

Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers, Republican of Michigan, has introduced legislation that would require scientific scrutiny of online learning, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. The Independent Study of Distance Education Act of 2007, H.R. 412, would direct the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study comparing distance-education programs to classroom instruction. The same measure was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005 but was killed during House-Senate negotiations.

2006 was a steady and productive year for XML, according to IBM developerWorks' article “XML in 2006: Notable Happenings in the World of XML.” The browser wars rekindled as Microsoft returned to the field for the first time in half a decade, and office software started seeing real competition for the first time in twice that long. Atom, XForms, and XQuery all made significant progress by the end of the year and several interesting new technologies saw the first light of day, including Gleaning Resource Descriptions from Dialects of Languages (GRDDL) and XProc; and more than one independent developer filled a niche the big boys had missed. For the complete article, visit http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/xml/library/x-xml2006review.html.

The latest installment in Educause's "7 Things You Should Know About..." series tackles the e-book -- a technology that, in the eyes of many campus officials, still isn't quite ready for prime time. Educause's dispatch is quick to note the tool's pedagogical promise: "An e-book that abandons the notion of reading from front to back...encourages readers to take an active, self-directed role in how they learn." But the report goes on to point out some of the flaws that have plagued e-books, including "clunky" implementation of video and audio content, reports the Chronicle of Higher Education.

UT Austin Internet Server

'SPEEDEs' Along

November 2006 volume included:
- 45,654 TS130 transcripts
- 34,601 TS131 acknowledgements
- 17,959 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 88,920 TS189 Admission Applications
- 46,548 TS138 test score reports
- 259,599 total transactions

December 2006 volume included:
- 50,961 TS130 transcripts
- 36,050 TS131 acknowledgements
- 15,737 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 67,584 TS189 Admission Applications
- 33,557 TS138 test score reports
- 226,557 total transactions

See 2005-06 year end statistics on page 23.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday April 23, 2007</th>
<th>Tuesday April 24, 2007</th>
<th>Wednesday April 25, 2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am – 9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Awards</strong>&lt;br&gt;Michael Sessa&lt;br&gt;Executive Director&lt;br&gt;PESC</td>
<td></td>
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<td>9:00am – 10:15am</td>
<td><strong>Using Data to Improve Student Achievement</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aimee Guidera&lt;br&gt;Director&lt;br&gt;Data Quality Campaign</td>
<td><strong>Standards within the US Department of Education</strong>&lt;br&gt;Katie Blot&lt;br&gt;Chief Information Officer&lt;br&gt;Chief Information Office&lt;br&gt;Federal Student Aid&lt;br&gt;US Department of Education&lt;br&gt;Lee Hoffman&lt;br&gt;National Center for Education Statistics&lt;br&gt;US Department of Education&lt;br&gt;Ross Santy&lt;br&gt;Deputy Assistant Secretary for Data and Information&lt;br&gt;Office of Planning, Evaluation &amp; Policy Development&lt;br&gt;US Department of Education</td>
<td><strong>Bridging the Cultural Divide in Higher Education</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Michael Zastrocky&lt;br&gt;Vice President &amp; Research Director for Academic Strategies&lt;br&gt;Gartner, Inc.</td>
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<td>10:15am – 10:30am</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>10:30am – 11:45am</td>
<td><strong>Open Source, Learning and Patents</strong>&lt;br&gt;Michael Feldstein&lt;br&gt;Assistant Director, Learning Network&lt;br&gt;State University of New York (SUNY)</td>
<td><strong>Data as a Resource - State Policymaker's Perspectives</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hans P. L'Orange&lt;br&gt;Director, SHEEO/NCES Network &amp; Director of Data &amp; Information Mgmt&lt;br&gt;State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)</td>
<td><strong>The e-Learning Environment</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rob Abel&lt;br&gt;Chief Executive Officer&lt;br&gt;IMS Global Learning Consortium</td>
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<td>11:45am – 1:15pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adjourn</strong></td>
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<td>1:15pm – 2:15pm</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Advanced XML 101 for Experts&lt;br&gt;- National Standards in Development&lt;br&gt;- Student Loan Pod Casts</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Data Transport Standard&lt;br&gt;- E-Document Requirements for Storage, Reproduction and Security&lt;br&gt;- IPEDS</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td>2:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>Advanced XML 102 for Experts, Standards-Based Electronic Transcripts for the University of Michigan, Business Intelligence as a Strategic Competitive Advantage</td>
<td>Authentication and ID Management, National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), Open Source</td>
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<td>Privacy and Security, PESC 101: Standards Make the World Go Round, SPEEDE Update</td>
<td>Legislative and Regulatory Impacts on Technology and Standards, SOA Case Study: A Real World Implementation in Higher Education Using Open Source Technologies, TBD (slot being held)</td>
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<td>5:00pm – 6:00pm</td>
<td>PESC 9th Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
<td>Conference Reception</td>
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As of January 19, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Sessa  
PESC Executive Director  
202-293-7383

Central Connecticut State University, JustIQ, Ontario College Application Services, Regent Education, and the University of Lethbridge Join PESC Membership

January 24, 2007 (Washington DC) ~ The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is very pleased to announce that Central Connecticut State University, JustIQ, Ontario College Application Services, Regent Education, and the University of Lethbridge have joined the PESC Membership.

“The entire JustIQ team is thrilled to join PESC,” states Olin Hyde, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for JustIQ. “Its mission to create open standards makes it easier for us to streamline information systems for education finance companies. We sincerely hope that we can help the student loan industry develop, adopt and benefit from the technical support offered by PESC and its members and affiliates.”

“As the first off-the-shelf financial aid solution designed to interoperate and enhance college and university’s technology investment, Regent is pleased to join PESC’s efforts in creating national standards which allow for seamless data exchange between all organizations serving and supporting the higher education community,” states Leonard Gude, Vice President of Financial Aid Solutions at Regent Education and former PESC Board of Directors member.

For more information about Central Connecticut State University, please visit www.CCSU.edu. For more information about JustIQ, please visit www.JustIQ.com. For more information about Ontario College Application Services, please visit www.OntarioColleges.ca. For more information about Regent Education, please visit www.RegentEducation.com. For more information about the University of Lethbridge, please visit www.ULeth.ca.

About Central Connecticut State University

Central Connecticut State University is a regional, comprehensive public university dedicated to learning in the liberal arts and sciences and to education for the professions. Comprising five schools—Arts & Sciences, Business, Education & Professional Studies, Technology, and Graduate Studies—CCSU offers undergraduate and graduate programs through the Master’s and sixth-year levels and the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. Committed to offering Connecticut citizens access to distinctive academic programs of high quality, the University is also a responsive and creative intellectual and economic resource for the people and institutions of our state’s Capitol Region. More than 85 percent of CCSU graduates remain in Connecticut, contributing to the intellectual, cultural, and economic health of the state. CCSU is, above all else, a vibrant learning-centered community dedicated to teaching and to scholarship.
undergraduate and graduate level balances academic challenge and personal support, leading students to become thoughtful, responsible, and successful citizens. A network of study-abroad opportunities, overseas inter-institutional arrangements, and other internationally focused educational programming prepares students to become “global citizens,” responsive to a world of cultural differences and able to succeed in an increasingly international marketplace.

About JustIQ
JustIQ, a subsidiary of Integrant Inc., specializes in providing IT solutions for the student loan industry. Our team has over 15 years of experience developing custom applications and providing IT support. Since 2000, we have accumulated over 100 project years of experience building groundbreaking solutions for the student loan industry. Our teams have deep experience in XML, .NET, SQL and working with CommonLine, CAM and industry standard systems. Our tools facilitate precise analysis, accurate reporting and enterprise-wide sharing of all data associated with borrowers and loans. Partnering with JustIQ allows you to focus on your core competencies and accelerate your business processes. Integrant Inc. is a global outsourcing provider delivering IT services to companies since 1992. We specialize in providing solutions to the mid-market financial service industry. We offer a full range of services including strategic IT consulting, custom development, CRM solutions and Business Intelligence tools. Performance is our passion. We align technology with business processes so clients can maximize the value of their most important asset—people. Our services enable you to focus on your core competencies.

About Ontario College Application Services
Created in 1992 by the 24 Ontario college presidents and located in Guelph, Ontario, the Ontario College Application Services provides administrative systems and application processing services for Ontario’s 24 colleges, three regional campuses of the University of Guelph, and the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences. OCAS is a central agency for 150,000 college applicants yearly, 28 colleges, and 1,100 provincial high schools. OCAS ensures that a college applicant’s data, grades, and supporting documents are delivered accurately and efficiently from high school to college, college to college, college to university, and university to college.

About Regent Education
Founded in 1979, Regent Education provides software solutions exclusively for higher education institutions, where it is a leading provider of Financial Aid Management Software. Regent is the market’s first off-the-shelf solution designed to coexist, interoperate and enhance existing ERP system investments. Their products are fully web-based and operate on open standards architecture which utilizes the benefits of 25 years of Higher Education knowledge and experience with today’s flexible, interoperable web-based technologies.

About the University of Lethbridge
The University of Lethbridge’s focus on the liberal arts, selected professional programs, smaller classes, coop placements and involvement of students in faculty research provides the very best education available. At the Masters level, programs in the arts, science, education and management are very successful. Most importantly, they have just formed the School of Graduate Studies and admitted their first PhD students. Their faculty are among the very best. Their combined scientific funding from Alberta and federal sources is the highest in Canada for Universities their size. Their scholars in the humanities, social sciences, education and management continue to publish at a very high rate. As a clear indication of this success the University of Lethbridge faculty have received many awards and recognition for their research and teaching.

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.
January 10, 2007

Michael Sessa
Executive Director
PESC
One DuPont Circle NW Suite 520
Washington, DC 20036-1135

Re: SIFA response to: PESC Comments to SIFA

Dear Mr. Sessa,

The SIF Association would again like to thank the Post Electronic Standards Council (PESC) Board, task force and work groups for submitting comments to the newly released Schools Interoperability Framework Implementation Specification 2.0.

Your comments and suggestions on the Student Records Exchange (SRE) Objects and joint participation on conference calls between several members in the PESC High School XML transcript work group with our Student Record Exchange Task Force have begun to create a community of collaboration. In this activity, it is evident this community has shown a willingness to work to gather for greater interoperability between standards organizations.

The SRE Task Force welcomed the comments and has made plans to incorporate as many items as possible in the upcoming 2.1 release of the specification as well as taking several items to additional work groups for consideration. Attached is a response from the group addressing your suggestions and comments.

Again we would like to thank you and your members and look forward to continue joint work opportunities between both organizations for the betterment of interoperability in education.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Fruth II, PhD
Executive Director
Schools Interoperability Framework Association
Comment 1: Use of RefID’s in SIF Specification

- The RefIDs are a necessary part of the SIF infrastructure. We use this structure as part of our messaging architecture and currently SIFA has no plans to move away from using RefIDs.
- Vendors and developers are familiar with the SIF and PESC standard and feel that they can develop protocols in their SIF Agents and applications to handle the RefID concerns of PESC or other outside entities.

Comment 2: Inability to send a complete communication.

- The SIF standard is one of many standards based upon a message oriented approach. Other XML standards are based upon a document approach. This could explain the impedance experienced in translating from one standard to the other.
- A SIF message could easily be contained in a document format such as a zip file.
- Developers could easily create a translator from SIF messages to an XML document as a function of their application design.
- It was also part of the SRE objects design to allow for queries based in whole or part on the amount of information desired.

Comment 3: Additional best practice documents and reference implementation would ease analysis of the SIF spec.

- The 2.0 specification includes some extended examples and best practice documents. We will continue to extend the documentation in this area as we move forward with subsequence releases.
- A reference implementation is beyond the scope of our current work. However, our Certification test harness provides vendors and others with the ability to test messages for conformance with the specification. The Association also offers multiple opportunities throughout the year for developer connect-a-thons.

Comment 4: Addition of additional elements to the SRE Objects

Taking into account the list of elements that PESC has supplied and with the joint work between the PESC and SRE Task Force we offer the following on the individual data elements listed under comment #4

- Canadian SIN could be a specific enumeration vis-à-vis other id in StudentPersonal.
- Student Name Suffix – this is part of the demographics common element.
- Alternate Names – entire name structure could be repeated multiple times. We also need to check with the SIS vendors in the K-12 space to see how they are currently storing alternate names in their applications.
- Deceased Indication – at this time we would need to see if any of the K-12 applications can handle this element. We are taking this to the SIS Work Group.
- Immunizations – We also feel this is an important new object an upcoming releases under Health.
- LocalSchoolID State Identification – We will add a two character ID to demographic element.
- College Board/ACT CEEBACT – We will need to talk with SIS and Data Warehouse groups to see if they do and can carry this element in their applications. If this is relevant in their applications we will ask that the element be added to the appropriate SIS Data Objects.
- Diploma Honors Title – We will add this into the next round of the SIF specification release.
- Level of Diploma Honors – We will need to talk with the SIS and Data Warehouse groups to see if they do and can carry this element, is so we will recommend this addition.
• Academic Completion Indicator – We will need to talk with the SIS and Data Warehouse groups to see if they do and can carry a clear indicator of graduation.
• Academic Program – We will check with NCES to come to an understanding of what would be expected and gain a clear understanding of what description and codes are expected, along with engaging the SIS Work Group.
• Grade Point Average Min and Max – Another item to discuss with the SIS and Grade-book Work Groups for consideration in 2.1
• CourseCreditBasis – do more investigation with PESC
• CourseCreditUnits – Another item to discuss with the SIS Work Group for consideration in 2.1
• CourseGradeStatus – Item to discuss with the Grade Book Work Group for availability and consideration for 2.1
• CourseRepeatCode – Another item to discuss with the SIS Work Group for availability and consideration in 2.1
• CourseGPAAplicabilityCode – This will be included in the upcoming 2.1 specification release.
• Language Proficiency – Another item to discuss with the SIS Work Group for availability and consideration in 2.1
• New release and versioning policy will allow the quick release of additions to the Data Model section of the specifications
• Features and Functionality Roadmap is planned that will inform the user community of the intended release schedule of particular data elements and other additions
Electronic Transcripts Increase 368% in North Carolina

The first to introduce a statewide electronic transcript exchange, CFNC.org and Xap see exponential growth in the number of schools and students embracing the new technology

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Culver City, CA – January 11, 2007 – North Carolina, which three years ago was the first state to offer a statewide electronic student transcript exchange, saw significant usage growth in 2006. Over 15,000 electronic transcripts were transmitted from 115 North Carolina high schools to the state’s 110 colleges and universities last year through CFNC.org, a significant increase from the prior year’s 3,200 transcripts.

Eliminating redundant tasks like printing, mailing, filing and data entry, Xap’s Transcript Exchange improves efficiency with a fast and secure method to request, send, receive and import digital academic transcripts directly into the student information system. Using Xap’s complete digital application solution and supporting industry standards (PESC), North Carolina institutions are seeing annual cost savings of up to $75,000.

“The ability for students to send their official high school transcripts electronically is an incredible advantage both to students and school counselors who save time and money, and colleges can react much faster in making an admissions decision,” said Robert Kanoy, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs with the University of North Carolina system.

North Carolina views CFNC.org as a key factor behind the increase in the percentage of high-school students continuing on to college from 55% to 64%. CFNC.org provides career and education planning, as well as a simplified process for submitting both admissions applications and transcripts to students’ institutions of choice.

“We are pleased to be the technology partner with North Carolina that developed the first statewide electronic transcript exchange in the nation three years ago,” said Liz Dietz, Xap’s Chief Executive Officer. “We look for recently-launched statewide exchanges in Illinois, Georgia and Tennessee to see similar success. While the marketplace’s vast number of student information systems has created a traditional challenge for some, we have been successful in providing a true digital solution. Additionally, we are have a proven track record and are constantly raising the bar, as evidenced by our new Portable Document Extract (PDX) technology that demystifies the electronic transcript data exchange between different systems.”

About Xap
Xap Corporation (www.xap.com), the trusted industry choice for one-stop integrated education and career solutions, empowers successful lifelong transitions through market-leading innovations and smart, flexible tools that are reliable, valid and secure. Its products have helped over eleven million students in the past decade and are presently available in over 15,000 North America schools.
University of Michigan Is First University To Receive “True” Electronic Transcripts

Ann Arbor, MI - December 20, 2006 – The University of Michigan has begun receiving applicant transcripts electronically directly from high school student information management systems, into their own student information management system. Utilizing ConnectEdu’s college planning and admissions portal – Connect! – the University of Michigan is receiving actual electronic transcripts as opposed to .PDF, paper or imaged transcripts, thus eliminating reliance upon manual document processing, GPA recalculation or receipt notification procedures. The partnership between the University of Michigan and ConnectEdu marks the first time that direct integration between high school and college student information systems has been accomplished.

“This is an exciting day for students applying to college.” said Chris Lucier, Director of Recruitment and Operations for the University of Michigan. “At the same time when there are so many reports about the increased complexity of the admissions process and the associated student anxiety, this eases the student’s application process and improves our efficiency. Unlike those systems that simply send a .pdf of the transcript into our imaging system, true electronic transcripts provide us actual workable data points which improve our ability to quickly process applications, and analyze our admissions and retention practices.” Over time, ConnectEdu’s ability to deliver us true electronic transcripts will significantly reduce our paper and imaging burden. In the end, our goal is to make the college admissions process easier, which we hope will improve access to college for all students.”

According to a recent time study conducted by ConnectEdu with several college admission staffs, college admission offices spend on average anywhere from forty-one minutes, using an EDI data exchange process, to 1 hour and fourteen minutes, using a paper or .PDF data exchange process, to create individual student admission files. Using the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council standards, today’s breakthrough in the delivery of student documents via a web services platform takes the total time spent processing the admission file down to approximately 3 minutes and 20 seconds per student application. According to ConnectEdu’s study today’s announcement could save -more-
community colleges, and colleges and universities between $13.69 - $25.38 per applicant.

With 2.5M students applying to an average of 6 colleges each year, ConnectEdu projects that there is $205-308M lost each year processing college applications nationwide due to inefficiencies in the process. This doesn’t take into account the additional time and increased anxiety that results from lost application materials or miscommunication between parents, students, high schools and admission offices.

“We are excited by this important breakthrough in college and community college admissions. In 2002 we set out to modernize the college planning and admissions process. Our goal was to make this process more manageable and integrated for all involved – counselors, students, parents and admission officers – and, today, we took a giant leap toward reaching this goal.” said Craig Powell, President & Founder of ConnectEdu. “It’s our belief that everyone involved with the college admissions process today deserves a better solution than what the marketplace has historically delivered. We are bent on taking the revenue we save college admission offices and re-investing it into improving the process for students, therefore we are making Connect! available to high schools, students and parents for free. With partners like the University of Michigan, the University of Connecticut, Missouri State University and others, we are working hard to make this a better process for everyone!”

**About ConnectEdu:**
Founded in 2002, ConnectEdu provides families and students with the professional guidance necessary to maximize their educational potential, investment and experience. Deploying its innovative online platform - Connect!® - ConnectEdu offers comprehensive technology solutions dedicated to supporting students, counselors, and admissions officers engaged in the college search, admissions and financial aid process. In partnership with high schools, community colleges and colleges, ConnectEdu is achieving a paperless admissions process and investing in providing every student with a comprehensive college plan.

###
The Meteor Network

The Meteor Network is used to retrieve aggregated student loan data from multiple organizations in real time. Until February 2006, the network was used exclusively by campus financial aid administrators. Beginning in February 2006, customer service staff and students were given access to the network through a series of software enhancements. School campuses’ can now allow their students access to the network from their campus Website using their local logon protocol. Other organizations in the financial aid community such as lenders, guarantors and servicers can also provide access to both their school and student customers in the same manner. American Education Services was the first organization to offer access to student borrowers. Additional providers have since implemented the new enhancements with several other organizations in the final phases of testing (visit www.nchelp.org/Meteor.htm and download the implementation matrix for a current listing of organizations).

Suggested by Bernie Gleason at the Federal Student Aid CIO Technology Update Conference on May 8, 2002, “transitive trust” enables a student to use local authentication to access student loan data from multiple agencies without the use of separate logon IDs. The Meteor Network is designed to provide both the software and the infrastructure needed for schools and other student aid organizations to offer this service to their customers and staff. The U.S. Department of Education’s Federal Student Aid (FSA) and lenders and servicers regulated by FSA rely on campus authentication and authorization, provided the college or university complies with certain security practices. In the case of the Meteor Network, the student would “log on” to a local Web application and authentication and authorization is automatically transmitted to their participating loan providers through the Meteor network.

The historical volume of queries is shown in Figure 1. This volume is expected to continue its sharp increase as new providers are added to the
Network and until student borrowers throughout the country have access. The distribution of use by role of the user is shown in Figure 2.

Meteor Network - Distribution of Use

A query consists of a number of different “transactions” or messages. An index provider (currently the National Student Clearinghouse) identifies all of the sources of data—called data providers. Then each data provider is queried individually for data about the student user. This data is then aggregated and presented to the user. The Meteor software has integrated business rules that analyze the data to determine duplicate awards (in the case where multiple providers have information on the same aid award) and then to determine the best source of the data at the time of the inquiry. Financial Aid Professionals have the ability to “override” the best source logic and to view all data returned on each award in a neat, side-by-side format, quickly allowing the aid officer to determine the source of any potential data discrepancies.
Shibboleth provides message and site authentication and for “levels of trust” corresponding to those mandated for U.S. federal departments and agencies.

Meteor uses the industry-standard SOAP messaging protocol. All data messages are encrypted at the source and throughout the transmission to the final destination using industry standards. The Meteor software is written using the Java programming language.

Meteor began operation in 2002 and has been used continuously with no significant interruptions in service and no security breaches. The Meteor Advisory Team continues to work with schools, students, and industry organizations to provide additional functionality to the software. Additionally, the team has already implemented a customized use of the data on the network, again utilizing the transitive trust model of authentication for exit interviews. Currently, Mapping Your Future has leveraged use of the software and the network to allow students to receive real time loan information during their exit counseling session. The Meteor team is working with several other organizations on similar exit counseling implementations. Additionally, the Meteor team has begun early discussions with multiple schools to utilize the real time data for customized debt management and default aversion activities. It is expected that several pilot projects will be unveiled in the first half of 2007.

To view an audio presentation on the Meteor Project and to utilize an interactive demonstration version of the software, please visit www.MeteorNetwork.org or email Meteor Project Manager, Tim Cameron at Meteor@nchelp.org.
## UT Austin Server Statistics
### Year End 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Admission Applications</th>
<th>Test Score Reports</th>
<th>All Other*</th>
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<td>179,339</td>
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Postsecondary Transcripts 2006

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All Transactions 2006

Month
Number

January 289,393
February 152,222
March 140,278
April 153,737
May 215,882
June 198,994
July 145,142
August 186,907
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October 189,875
November 259,599
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>660,157</td>
<td>555,652</td>
<td>510,021</td>
<td>389,295</td>
<td>179,339</td>
<td>191,992</td>
<td>953,519</td>
<td>777,744</td>
<td>2,303,036</td>
<td>1,914,683</td>
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* Other includes Acknowledgements, Functional Acknowledgements, Requests, and Responses.
Postsecondary Transcripts 2005 vs. 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number 2005</th>
<th>Number 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>61,974</td>
<td>81,373</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>32,634</td>
<td>35,725</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>32,866</td>
<td>36,902</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>39,792</td>
<td>44,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>71,493</td>
<td>84,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>58,547</td>
<td>66,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>39,750</td>
<td>51,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>61,164</td>
<td>73,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>35,169</td>
<td>43,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>36,207</td>
<td>44,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>42,242</td>
<td>45,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>43,814</td>
<td>50,961</td>
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</table>
Admission Applications 2005 vs. 2006

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>34,888</td>
<td>31,608</td>
<td>27,317</td>
<td>21,090</td>
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</table>
Test Score Reports 2005 vs. 2006

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

Number of Test Score Reports for each month from January to December.
All Transactions 2005 vs. 2006

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<th>Month</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>January</td>
<td>216,019</td>
<td>289,393</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<td>152,222</td>
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<td>140,278</td>
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<td>153,737</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>186,043</td>
<td>215,882</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>162,809</td>
<td>198,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>107,549</td>
<td>145,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>149,737</td>
<td>186,907</td>
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<td>144,450</td>
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<td>189,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>203,514</td>
<td>226,557</td>
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