PESC Celebrates 5th Year Milestone

PESC’s 5th Annual Conference on Electronic Standards in Higher Education sailed on smoothly in Alexandria, VA from May 6 to 8, 2003. With more than 110 attendees, this year marked the largest attendance for PESC’s annual event so far.

Keynote speaker Steve Holbrook, Program Director for Emerging e-Business Standards at IBM, captivated attention as he discussed *Standards in the post Web World*. Mr. Holbrook framed his presentation with five basic questions. What if you could drastically reduce your cycle time in the process? Simplify your IT environment? Achieve almost immediate ROI? And what if you could achieve these results TODAY, by leveraging Executive Director
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The Standard is the electronic newsletter published monthly by The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). The Standard covers news and events that impact information technology and data exchange; and promotes PESC’s goals of improving service, controlling costs, and attaining interoperability within higher education. For information about subscriptions, advertising, and article submissions, please visit www.StandardsCouncil.org. © 2003 PESC

Technology Summit Planned for October 2003

PESC and AACRAO are pleased to continue their partnership in bringing timely and emerging technological information to the higher education community.

For the third straight year, PESC will partner with AACRAO, holding its Technology Summit immediately following AACRAO’s Technology Conference. While two separate events, the opportunity to partner allows those interested to spend a few days focusing on technology issues important to various areas of higher education. This year’s Technology Summit will be comprised of meetings of all PESC’s active workgroups including the XML Forum for Education, Web Services, and Single Institutional Identifier.

The Summit kicks off on Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at 1:30 pm with a general session open to all attendees. During Tuesday’s general session, the draft Business Plan for the XML Forum, which will identify the over-
On Wednesday May 7, 2003, the XML Forum for Education delivered two significant documents, signifying a milestone for PESC and the XML Forum. The first document is the Higher Education Core Components Dictionary May 6, 2003. This first draft includes Core Components for the Academic Transcript, CommonLine, Common Origination and Disbursement, and Meteor. The effort to develop and deliver this information is the first critical step in streamlining data exchange needs for postsecondary institutions.

The second document is the XML Technical Specification for Higher Education v 2.5. The purpose of the Technical Specification is to help guide the work of the XML Forum and the higher education community in the development and maintenance of data dictionary and XML schemas. Both documents are available for review and downloading from PESC’s website.

PESC Honors Founding Board Members

At its 5th Annual Conference on Electronic Standards in Higher Education, PESC honored two of its founding Board members with Distinguished Service Awards.

Jerry Bracken, Software Engineer at Brigham Young University, and Jackie Kessler, Senior Director of Public Policy at SCT, were integral to the founding of PESC, have served on its Board as founding Board members since original incorporation, and will continue to serve until June 30, 2003.

Mr. Bracken served as PESC’s founding Chair of the Board of Directors and will continue to serve PESC as Chair of the ANSI X12 Subcommittee A for Higher Education Administration.

Awards were presented by Keith Riccitelli, Chair of PESC’s Board of Directors and Director of Global Sourcing for Sallie Mae, and Michael Sessa, Executive Director or PESC.

Best Practices 2002

PESC is pleased to announce ELMNet and Meteor co-winners of its 2002 Best Practices Competition. The Best Practices Competition, now in its fourth year, is held to promote innovation and ingenuity in the application of standards for business needs.

Both ELMNet and Meteor have established and implemented processes that use standards to access data from distributed databases in order to provide service and present information to students and financial aid professionals.

Bill Connor, Director of ELMNet Services at ELM Resources, accepted the award for ELMNet, while Tim Cameron, Director of Technology Services at NCHELP, accepted the award for Meteor.

Awards were made at PESC’s 5th Annual Conference on Electronic Standards in Higher Education by Keith Riccitelli, Chair of PESC’s Board of Directors and Director of Global Sourcing for Sallie Mae and Michael Sessa, Executive Director or PESC.

Both submissions, along with all prior winning submissions, are available for review and downloading from the PESC homepage.
your company’s current systems, proven infrastructure, industry standard skills and a modest investment?

“We have entered an age of ‘coopetition,’” said Holbrook, which he explained as “cooperating with your competition.” A notion that seemed to resonate to the mixed audience of longtime colleagues and stiff competitors.

Mr. Holbrook discussed the role of standards, why they are important; laid out a vision of Web Services - the “next big thing”; assessed where we are now in terms of technology and standards development; and ended with a discussion on what’s next and some key points about IBM’s strategy for the future.

“We’ re all hungry for the means to interoperate,” said Holbrook. “Standards are a way to accomplish interoperability.”

Following the keynote, a panel of experts discussed the “State of Electronic Standards in Higher Education.” Panelists Jerry Schubert, Acting CIO of ED FSA; Robert Morley, Associate Registrar at the University of Southern California and Vice President of AACRAO’s Board of Directors; and Richard Pickett, Executive Director of Strategic Programs at Oracle, for the most part agreed that we are still at the early stage of standards development and use in higher education. But all agreed that standards and their emergence will play an ever increasing role in IT over the next few years.

John Dubois, Technology Evangelist at Microsoft, spoke to Web Services and focused on defining Web Services and on the changes in society and how technology has evolved over the years. Mr. Dubois discussed how Web Services are the key to integration of business and enterprise-wide applications and provided several demonstrations on how Web Services can work in real life and in real time.

On Thursday May 8, 2003, a second panel illustrated why standards are important and what role they can play. Mark Olson, Executive Vice President and COO of NACUBO; Bernie Gleason, Internet Strategy Consultant at Boston College and Board of Directors for JA-SIG; and Mark Jones, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development at the National Student Clearinghouse and PESC Board Member, provided concrete examples of the value of standards and why it is important to grow out of proprietary solutions.

“We would not be where we are at today without standards,” said Olson.

Leaders of PESC’s workgroups provided updates on each of their respective areas: Ed Hauser, General Manager, Student & Financial Aid Systems of SCT, updated attendees on the work going on within the XML Forum for Education; and Robert King, Director of Strategic Development for Citibank, spoke to the white paper being written within the Web Services workgroup.

“The are a number of standards and standards bodies,” said Hauser. “It really does come down to the transitional aspect of things, and that is where we should be focused…As an organization we need to look at how we support the work going forward.”

The conference also included concurrent sessions on EDI/XML, XML on the Move, the XML Postsecondary Transcript, Common Record, ELMNet and Meteor (co-winners of PESC Best Practices Competition 2002), EDI Implementation, and Internet Services from the University of Texas at Austin.

The conference kicked-off Tuesday night May 6 with a well-attended Welcome Reception, sponsored by the Education Finance Council (EFC) and continued through noon on Thursday May 8, 2003. All presentations made during the conference are available on-line for review and downloading from PESC’s website. PESC thanks its conference committee for developing such a strong program and its sponsors who help make it all happen: EFC, NASLA, AES, College Board, Sallie Mae, Citibank, NCHELP, SCT, and SLSA.
At its annual membership meeting held on Tuesday May 6, 2003, participants discussed the formation of a new workgroup geared toward Standard Student Authentication.

**Scope**

Comprehensive online access available to students today requires that separate systems communicate. This scenario has created a critical need for higher education to investigate and possibly adopt a standard method of authenticating students. A standard method of authentication can reduce the number of sign-ons a person must remember in order to access different systems and applications and also permits the sharing of data between systems, or the handing off of the user to another system, without the need to sign-on again.

**Work Process**

The workgroup will investigate the current activities surrounding this topic. Time will be spent analyzing and evaluating initiatives (completed, on-going, and proposed). It will identify and evaluate leverage points, benefits, and issues presented by employing standard student authentication methods in education-related initiatives. It will also identify specific data standards needed by the education community in order to employ standard authentication.

**Issues**

The workgroup should consider this effort an attempt to assist the education community understand what standard student authentication encompasses, how this initiative might be applied in the education space, and what standards would need to be in place for standard student authentication to be a viable solution. The workgroup will neither be developing prototypes nor determining standards.

**Outputs**

The findings of the workgroup research and its recommendations for PESC activity will be provided in a white paper for publication on the PESC website and distribution after review by the Board of Directors.

The first meeting of this new workgroup will be in October at PESC’s Technology Summit. Those interested in participating should contact Michael Sessa, Executive Director, at Sessa@StandardsCouncil.org or by phone 202-293-7383.

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**Community Calendar**

PESC announces the creation of an online Community Calendar. This Calendar will be a compilation of information, dates, and other details related to community and industry conferences, meetings, and events, and will be listed on PESC’s website (www.StandardsCouncil.org). Organizations can list their events (free of charge) along with applicable links. When submitting your event for posting, please ensure to include: 1) Name of meeting, event, conference 2) Topic and/or description (if applicable) 3) Host name 4) Dates 5) Location 6) Applicable fees 7) Registration information and/or link for registration. Please submit all information to Ane al-Sayyed, Membership Coordinator, at alSayyed@StandardsCouncil.org.

**Summit, From Page 1**

all purpose, policies, and procedures of the XML Forum, will be rolled out. Tuesday will also include a discussion on the launching of PESC’s newest workgroup on Standard Student Authentication and illustrations of Best Practices in Authentication in use in the community right now. The Summit continues on Wednesday, October 22, 2003 whereby workgroups will meet for a full day to continue their work and update each other on significant progress.

PESC is pleased to bring the Technology Summit to the higher education community free of charge. As space is limited, registration will be required. And while breakfasts and dinners will be on your own, PESC will sponsor a lunch on Wednesday for all attendees. Both events will take place at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, 111 East Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, Texas 78701. More information including on-line registration and hotel rates will be made available shortly…stay tuned!
The Department of Education has expanded the processing capabilities of the EDExpress software to communicate with the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) system for the 2003-2004 processing cycle. EDExpress users will send and receive 2003-2004 Pell and Direct Loan data in XML format. The impact of the shift to XML will vary for EDExpress users; for many it will be a transparent transition that will not affect system performance or processing schedules established in prior cycles. Other schools may find their Pell and Direct Loan files are larger than those in past cycles. Minimum hardware requirements can be found at www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1129pcneeds.html. EDExpress Version 9.1 is available for download at http://FSAdownload.ed.gov.

According to a memo released by the Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO) higher education institutions ARE NOT exempt from the Federal Trade Commission's regulations on safeguarding information, which became effective May 23, 2003. The FTC has taken the position that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act does not satisfy the safeguarding regulations, according to the memo. Training sessions for compliance officers and/or program coordinators on the safeguarding regulations will take place at the FTC offices in Washington on June 9 and June 23. It will also be possible to listen to these sessions via telephone. For additional information visit www.ftc.gov.

All presentations from PESC's 5th Annual Conference on Electronic Standards in Higher Education are now available online for viewing and downloading from www.StandardCouncil.org. PESC thanks all its presenters and its keynote speaker Steve Holbrook of IBM for sharing their knowledge, information, and insight.
AACRAO’s Technology Conference is the leading forum to understand and implement IT. Using technology to develop integrated student systems and services is critical to the success and survival of today’s modern university, especially in times of budget shortfalls. From admissions, registrars, student affairs and decision-makers to systems support, this conference covers student implementation issues and best practices in information technology.

Gather with your peers to learn both the challenges and successful technology implementations, from both companies and institutions. With over 40 presentations on topics from data standards, applications for technology in admissions, document storage, web applications and emerging technologies, this is one conference you cannot afford to miss.

AACRAO Technology Conference
Implementing Technology for Student Systems and Service
Raddisson Hotel, Austin, Texas
October 19-21, 2003
For more information, visit www.aacrao.org