The Board of Directors and Steering Committee of PESC announced November 29 the release of Common Record: CommonLine (CRC) as a PESC Member-approved Education community standard. Version 1.1 and all supporting documentation are available at www.PESC.org. This effort marks a significant milestone and achievement for the higher education community, the Electronic Standards Committee (ESC) of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and for PESC.

“PESC’s adoption of CRC is an important first step in ensuring industry-wide implementation and ongoing loan process simplification for financial aid offices.” Linda Katrinic, Assistant Director of Operations for Student Services at Baker College in Flint, MI and Co-Lead of the NCHELP ESC School Advisory Group, declares.

Launched in 1994, the ESC (formerly the CommonLine Committee) has collaborated and worked with hundreds of providers including guarantors, lenders, servicers, disbursing agents, originators, and numerous other organizations to increase efficiency, improve data integrity, and to provide simplification of processes to the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) through various versions of CommonLine. Now with CRC, which is expected to support the origination of over $40 billion of student loans annually, the ESC and the FFELP community join the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) and many other communities in many other industries in supporting XML, the widely adopted programming language that supports CRC.

“Approval of the new Common Record: CommonLine standard by PESC Members is a vital step forward in encouraging widespread adoption of this next generation student loan origination data exchange standard.” states Brian Allison, Director of Technology and Industry Initiatives at USA Funds and Co-Chair of NCHELP’s ESC. “It culminates a three-year dedicated team effort to provide enhanced processing
opportunities to schools and their students, and to loan service providers nationwide.”

“The PESC endorsement is valued because it affirms the collaborative nature of the process used to achieve the standard and that CRC conforms to the higher education standard core components, making it easier for school software vendors to provide the enhanced functionality to their clients,” adds Robert King, Director of Industry Initiatives at Citibank – The Student Loan Corporation and Co-Chair of NCHELP’s ESC. “Our thanks go out to those whose tireless efforts and commitment to the success of this effort made this milestone possible.”

CRC is a mega-standard and includes a number of standardized business transactions and numerous standardized objects and entities (name, address, graduation date, etc.). These same standardized objects and entities are used in other PESC Approved Standards, such as the XML Postsecondary Transcript. Recycling and reusing standardized objects and entities helps lower costs while improving the validity and integrity of data. As PESC’s mission is to promote the establishment and adoption of standards to improve institutional performance, lower costs, improve service, and attain system interoperability, standards approved by PESC Members and released to the education community are stored in the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community and available free of charge to the public.

For any organization looking to communicate their specific use and adoption of CRC, please contact Michael Sessa or Jennifer Kim directly at Sessa@PESC.org, 202-293-7383 or Kim@PESC.org, 202-263-0296 respectively.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:15am–noon</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>1. Data Transport Workgroup</td>
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<td>2. Admission Application Workgroup</td>
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<td>PESC Board of Directors (jointly with Steering Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon–1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm–3:00pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>1. Data Transport Workgroup</td>
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<td>2. Change Control Board</td>
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<td>PESC Board of Directors</td>
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<td>3:00pm–3:15pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:15pm–5:00pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td>2. Technical Advisory Board (3:15pm–4:00pm)</td>
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<td>3. Submission Advisory Board (4:00pm–5:00pm)</td>
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<td>PESC Board of Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm–6:30pm</td>
<td>PESC Reception</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 24, 2006</td>
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<td>The hotel is the Belleview Biltmore Hotel Golf, Beach &amp; Spa Resort located at 25 Belleview Boulevard in Clearwater, FL 33756 (<a href="http://www.belleviewbiltmore.com">www.belleviewbiltmore.com</a>). The phone number is 800-237-8947 and reservations can be made by contacting the hotel directly. The room rate is $169.00 and the group name is “NCHELP.” Please ensure that you make hotel arrangements by December 28, 2005 as the discounted rate is not guaranteed after that date. For those attending the PESC Winter 2006 Workgroup Summit, please complete the Registration Form on page 11 and return it to Jennifer Kim by fax at 202-872-8857 or by email at <a href="mailto:Kim@PESC.org">Kim@PESC.org</a> or register online at <a href="http://www.PESC.org">www.PESC.org</a>. We look forward to seeing you in Florida in January!</td>
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<td>7:30am–noon</td>
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<td>7:30am–8:30am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>8:30am–10:00am</td>
<td>General Session</td>
<td>1. New Development Efforts</td>
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<td>2. PESC Update</td>
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<td>3. Steering Committee Update</td>
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<td>4. Workgroup Updates</td>
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<td>10:00am–10:15am</td>
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<td>10:15am–Noon</td>
<td>General Session (continued)</td>
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**Call for Proposals**

**3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards**

CBA, EFC, NCHELP and PESC are pleased to announce their continued partnership in launching the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards. The conference is being held May 1-3, 2006 at the Wyndham Washington.

As we begin planning the sessions and topics, we want to ensure we have provided the community with the opportunity to propose session topics, sessions, and speakers. Do you know of a hot topic or a great speaker? Please let us know. We want to ensure we produce the best conference for you.

Send us your ideas by completing the form on page 9 and returning it by fax at 202-872-8857 or by email to Sessa@PESC.org. We look forward to seeing you in DC in May!
Technology Tidbits
and Standards Snippets

- Students and staff carelessness or negligence was the cause of 40 percent of computer incidents—viruses, loss of data, etc.—at colleges and universities, according to a recent survey conducted with a National Science Foundation Grant. Thirty-six institutions took part in the study, covering 319 incidents. To access the full report, visit http://www.educause.edu/content.asp?page_id=666&id=csd4207&bhcp=1.

- Microsoft recently announced that it will offer its Word, Excel and PowerPoint document formats as open standards. Microsoft said it would submit its Office Open XML document format technology to the International Standards Organization (ISO) to be adopted as an international standard in time for the launch of the next version of its Office software suite, code-named Office 12. The development comes as a group of technology rivals led by IBM Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc. are mobilizing a global effort to push the OASIS consortium’s Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) as a global standard format for these kinds of documents. To read an infoworld article about the announcement, visit www.infoworld.com/article/05/11/21/HNmsopenoffice_1.html.

- A recent IBM developerWorks article investigates an XML format that demonstrates a number of common mistakes and

Please be advised that PESC offices will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2005. We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season! The Standard takes a break during the month of December each year and will resume with the January 2006 edition.
design flaws, explaining how you can correct these issues and improve the format. Minor changes in naming practices can help make code more robust and easier to use. According to the article, when designing XML formats, you should prefer clarity and precision to compactness. Design for comprehensibility and maintainability rather than trying to squeeze out every last byte. To access the article, visit http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/xml/library/x-tipflaw.html.

■ Fear of embarrassment is keeping teachers from using technology in the classroom, according to a study conducted by researchers at the University of Bristol, in England. The study was conducted with schoolteachers instead of college professors, but the results may still be relevant on campus. Many of the teachers said they were comfortable using computers at home, but were reluctant to integrate the machines into their classes — because, they feared, savvy students would lose respect for teachers who couldn’t handle high-tech tools. Visit, http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/11/hightech_and_hi.html.

■ In recent months a number of colleges have opted to prohibit campus e-mail users from automatically forwarding their e-mail messages to different accounts, according to a University of Texas at Arlington campus paper, The Shorthorn. Inevitably, students who have gotten hooked on Hotmail grumble about the policy. After campus officials announced that they would put an end to automatic forwarding, Andre Santos, a computer-science major, fired off a profanity-laced e-mail message to the university’s assistant provost. Compounding that bit of questionable judgment, Santos also sent the missive to a campus listserv by mistake.

■ Asking college students to cut back on using instant-messaging programs would be like asking them to stop breathing. But persuading them to use the software a bit more safely might not be so hard to do, officials at Duke University hope. The university has unveiled a new server devoted entirely to making Instant Messenger and its ilk more secure, according to a Chronicle of Higher Education article. The server uses a security protocol called Jabber to encrypt students’ chat sessions — making it much more difficult for outsiders to intercept personal information relayed in the conversations. For more information, visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/11/asking_college_.html.

■ College students want faculty members to use information technology, but consider the human

New Members

PESC Welcomes New Organizations to its Membership

Bowling Green State University
The PESC contact is Craig Cornell, Director of Student Financial Aid.
www.BGSU.edu.

College Source Inc.
The PESC contact is Kelly Cooper.
www.CollegeSource.org

Texas Guaranteed
The PESC contact is Kyle Smith, Assistant Vice President, Loan Guarantee/Data Reporting.
www.TGSLC.org

University of Mississippi
The PESC contact is Buster Hale, Associate Vice Chancellor of IT.
www.OleMiss.edu

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University of Mississippi
The PESC contact is Buster Hale, Associate Vice Chancellor of IT.
www.OleMiss.edu
touch essential in courses as well, according to a new survey of 18,039 freshmen and seniors at 63 institutions, reported by the Chronicle of Higher Education. Forty-one percent of the students said they preferred their professors to make moderate use of information technology. By comparison, 26 percent said they preferred only limited use, while 27 percent sought extensive use. Ninety-six percent of the respondents said that they owned at least one computer. Desktop computers lost out in popularity to laptops, which 56 percent of respondents said they owned. That is a nine-percentage-point increase in laptop ownership, compared with a similar survey last year, according to the article. The survey may be accessed at www.educause.edu.

Whether digitizing out-of-print novels or publishing their own criticism, a growing number of scholars are putting their research on American literature on the Web. But they’re not getting much support from their colleges, according to a new report. For a full report, Chronicle subscription required, http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/09/a_literary_kale.html

The American Library Association and the American Civil Liberties Union joined forces to urge Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to allow a Connecticut library group that received an order under the Patriot Act to publicly talk about the experience. Under the order, called a national security letter, the FBI demanded that the Connecticut library group turn over the records of certain patrons. The order barred the group from telling anyone it had received the letter. A federal judge in Connecticut ruled earlier this month that this gag should be lifted, but an appeals court decided that the library group’s identity should remain a secret while the Justice Department tries to persuade the appeals court to overturn the judge’s decision. At a news conference, speakers were surrounded by eight librarians who covered their mouths with masking tape that bore the letters “NSL,” for national security letter. As one of the speakers implored Mr. Gonzales to lift the gag, the librarians peeled off the pieces of tape in unison. For more information, visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/09/librarians_prot.html.

A transcript of an online discussion on the “Millenial” generation with Richard T. Sweeney, university librarian at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, can be accessed at http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/10/digital_natives.html. The discussion explores how, and how much, should colleges change to adapt to this new generation? And how different are Millennials, really, from the students who preceded them?

OASIS recently announced a new initiative to define a set of protocols that will standardize Web service consensus protocols that are used in SOAs (service oriented architectures). The initiative brings in Microsoft Corp., SAP AG, Oracle Corp., Tibco, Software Inc., webMethods Inc., IBM, IONA Technologies plc, Hitachi Ltd., and Composite Software Inc. As part of the new WS-TX (Web Services Transaction Technical Committee), the companies will work with OASIS to define specifications

Membership Survey

In an effort to obtain some quick and easy feedback from the community, we’ve included a 6-question survey on page 10. As it is extremely important for us to know how satisfied you are with PESC and if we are meeting your expectations, please take a few minutes and complete and return this survey. Your feedback will help us serve you better. Surveys can be faxed back at 202-872-8857 or emailed to Kim@PESC.org.
that will help software customers better utilize Web services to create composite applications. For more information, visit http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1870379,00.asp.

- A new Educause report, based on responses from 890 colleges, found there were more information-technology staff members in the 2004 fiscal year than in the previous year, and more support for using technology in teaching. In addition, more than 57 percent of institutions that participated reported that most of their libraries provide wireless access, up 15 percentage points from the previous year. Thirty-four percent of colleges responding to the survey had wireless Internet connections in classrooms. More colleges are using smart cards, with 19 percent saying they have deployed the technology and 36 percent considering doing so. And 24 percent of institutions said they were using Internet telephones; 38 percent are considering it. The full text of the “Core Data Service Fiscal Year 2004 Summary Report” is available on Educause’s website, www.educause.edu.

- In place of ID cards and passwords, some colleges now use biometric technology, like hand readers and retina scanners, to screen people seeking access to facilities and data, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. For more information visit, http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/11/may_i_see_your_.html.

- If post-secondary institutions can require students to buy laptops before showing up, why can’t school districts do the same? Administrators at the Fullerton School District, in Orange County, California, are learning the answer the hard way, according to a Chronicle of Higher Education article. The district has started urging families to buy laptop computers for children enrolled in its schools. But the idea has been met with resistance from parents, who say the $1,500 price tag aggravates the digital divide between high-income and low-income families. And the American Civil Liberties Union says it may file suit against the district, arguing that school officials are violating the state’s Constitution by not offering free public education. For more information, visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/11/do_laptop_requi.html.

- Harvard University has joined the fast-growing ranks of institutions offering courses as podcasts. The university’s Extension School has started to post online video and audio recordings of weekly lectures from one of its entry-level courses, “Understanding Computers and the Internet.” A number of colleges have chosen to restrict their coursecasts to registered students, but the Harvard lectures are available at no cost to Web users.

- Google Maps is helping some students navigate their way through college life. Students at a couple of universities can use adapted versions of the maps to locate off-campus housing. And at Tufts University’s Campus Compass — also based on Google’s mapping software — freshmen and visitors can learn where to do their laundry or how to find the nearest ATM. For more information, visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/10/campus_cartogra.html.

- A pilot program that lets college students buy digital textbooks from their campus bookstores has gotten off to a slow start. But the company that runs the project says the early returns show at the very least that students are interested in e-books. MBS Textbook Exchange, Inc., has released sales data from 10 colleges that started offering digital textbooks through the company’s Web site this fall. According to the company, e-books now account for 5.7% of the textbook sales at those institutions. For more details on the digital-textbook project, see http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/11/digital_textboo.html.

- Thirty percent of respondents to a survey by the Campus Computing Project point to security
as their No. 1 information-technology concern. Many colleges nevertheless lack plans for recovering from security breaches and other problems, the survey found. Further information available with The Chronicle subscription, http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/10/security_concer.html.

More than 7,500 college administrators and professors gathered in Orlando for the annual Educause conference, making it one of the largest education-technology gatherings of the year. What are the hot issues this year? Diana G. Oblinger, a vice president for the group, said that the top issue is probably disaster recovery, as colleges try to determine the lessons of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Other top issues: security, e-portfolios and other efforts to assess how well students are learning, and podcasting. Educause is itself jumping into podcasting by making many of the sessions here available to members in a form that can be downloaded to iPods or other digital music players. Visit, http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/10/hot_issues_at_e.html.

High school students in Indiana will be able to transmit electronic copies of their transcripts to colleges to which they are applying for admission, under a statewide program announced last month. For more information, visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/10/no_stamp_needed.html.

Five publishers have filed a copyright-infringement lawsuit against Google because it is scanning books from top research libraries for its Library Project, the Association of American Publishers announced. The association is coordinating and paying for the lawsuit.

Officials at Princeton University are preparing to unveil a new supercomputer that will help astrophysics, engineering, and chemistry professors do some serious number-crunching. The machine is expected to crack the top 100 in a list of the world’s speediest supercomputers. Seven professors pooled personal grant money to help buy the machine. For more information, visit http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/2005/11/princeton_u_sco.html.

Financial institutions do more than just authenticate user name and password for internet-based banking, according to an Associated Press report. Behind the scenes, the bank can do a lot to check you out: Are you at your home computer, or at one with an Internet address that, strangely, is registered overseas? Are you logging on at an unusual time of day, or from a super-fast connection when normally you have dial-up? This kind of analysis is one example of the layers that bank websites will be adding by the end of 2006 to meet new demands from federal regulators for “two-factor” authentication. For more information, visit http://www.technologyreview.com/TR/wtr_14889,323,p1.html.
Do you have an idea for a session topic or know of a good speaker for the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards? Please tell us about your good ideas and return this form to PESC!

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Please copy and/or attach more sheets if necessary.
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

1. **Overall, how satisfied are you and your organization with its membership in PESC?**

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2. **How satisfied are you with how Workgroups are progressing and/or administered?**

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3. **How satisfied are you with The Standard – PESC’s monthly electronic newsletter?**

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4. **How satisfied are you with the PESC website?**

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5. **How satisfied are you with the Fall and Winter Workgroup Summits?**

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6. **How satisfied are you with the Annual Conference on Technology and Standards?**

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   Comments:

7. **If you could improve one item about PESC, what would it be and why?**

   Comments:
REGISTRATION FORM

WINTER 2006 WORKGROUP SUMMIT
Belleview Biltmore Hotel Golf, Beach & Spa Resort
25 Belleview Boulevard
Clearwater FL 33756
www.belleviewbiltmore.com
800-237-8947

January 23-24, 2006

Attendee Full Name

Title and Organization

Street Address

City, State and Zip

Phone
Fax
E-mail Address

Please complete this form and return it to PESC:

Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council
One Dupont Circle NW
Suite 520
Washington DC 20036
Fax: 202-872-8857
Email: Kim@PESC.org

www.PESC.ORG
First Sakai Foundation Board Elections Results

Tuesday, 22 November 2005

The first Sakai Foundation Board elections have completed. This is another significant step in the development of the Sakai community and its Foundation. As many said, the field of nominees was so strong that it was hard to choose among them. This speaks well of the Sakai community, of the quality of its members, and of their willingness to commit their time and effort. We thank them all. And we are happy to announce that the new board members are Chuck Severance of the University of Michigan, John Norman of the University of Cambridge, and Chris Coppola of rSmart. We congratulate them and their colleagues who ran in this first-ever election for the Sakai Foundation Board. See you all in Austin!

Joseph Hardin, Sakai Board Chair
Carl Jacobson, Elections WG lead

Publisher’s Note: Additional Sakai Foundation Board Members from the current Sakai Project Board include Joseph Hardin, Chair, University of Michigan, Bradley Wheeler, Vice Chair, Indiana University, Lois Brooks, Stanford University, Vivian Sinou, Foothill College (California), Mara Hancock, University of California, Berkeley, Ian Dolphin, University of Hull (UK), and Jutta Treviranus, Toronto University. Sakai Project Board members Carl Jacobson, University of Delaware, Jeff Merriman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (representing the Open Knowledge Initiative) and Babi Mitra, Massachusetts, Institute of Technology, declined to serve on the Foundation Board because of other commitments. Ian Dolphin is also Vice President of JA-SIG Inc. and a member of the JA-SIG Board. Chris Coppola is President of the r-smart group and a member of the OSP (Open Source Portfolio) Board.

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