Achievement through Collaboration: An Update from North of the 49th Parallel

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PESC Spring Data Summit ~ April 30, 2014 ~
The Canadian PESC User Group: The 5 Ws

- Who we are
- Where we are
- When we get together
- What we’ve been up to / What’s ahead
- Why we do it
Who we are

- Membership from all 10 provinces, including centralized application centres, universities, colleges, Ministries of Education, software vendors and government agencies
- Primary contact between PESC and ARUCC – Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada
- PESC and ARUCC formalized their partnership in April 2013 with a MOU
Where we are
When we get together

- Second Thursday of each month by teleconference and occasionally webinar
- When possible, at conferences, meetings, and other educational venues
- And, of course, electronically via email and use of our document repository on ShareFile
What we’ve been up to since May 2013

• Developing a Canadian Transcript Exchange Network
  • Goal is to create a national student-centric transcript network based on PESC XML standards
  • Focus on high school, scalable to postsecondary
• The San Diego Decision: The four application centres are best placed to lead the way
  • Start small, share what we’ve learned with those provinces who will follow later
• Here we go, cross-Canada...
Uses IT to collaboratively connect expertise, programs, and resources of all 26 B.C. postsecondary institutions

Uses PESC standard for
- Online admission portal
- B.C. directory of online and distance courses
- Transcript exchange service for six institutions (so far!)

Since September facilitates TranscriptsBC Standards Reference Group for PESC XML data standards to:
- Develop solutions relating to transcript data exchange
- Ensure alignment between print and electronic transcripts
- Develop consistent PESC XML tag use across institutions
- Develop common testing scenarios to facilitate implementation and PESC adoption sector-wide
The Ontario Universities’ Application Centre (OUAC), Guelph

- Primarily manages centralized processing of student applications to Ontario’s 20 universities
- Since 1996, has operated an EDI transcript hub for Ontario’s universities
- Uses PESC XML High School Transcript and Acknowledgement
- Currently supports PESC XML College Transcript & Acknowledgement using corresponding EDI ↔ XML crosswalks
- May/June 2014 will support full PESC XML transcript suite & transcript batch, using all remaining EDI ↔ XML crosswalks with Ontario’s newest university
What BCcampus and the OUAC have achieved together

- Since 2003 Douglas College had been sending transcripts to the OUAC in EDI via the SPEEDE Server
- On January 23, 2014 Douglas College started sending transcripts in PESC XML to BCcampus for the OUAC to retrieve via web services and forward to Ontario universities
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University to follow suit this summer
- First tangible interprovincial achievement in the Canadian Transcript Exchange Network!
ApplyAlberta, Edmonton

- 21 postsecondary institutions collaborated with Alberta Advanced Education and Technology to create a common application system
- Went live October 2009 with 26 participants (21 + the five independent academic institutions in Alberta)
- ApplyAlberta uses the PESC standards for:
  - Application for Admission
  - High School transcripts
  - Postsecondary transcripts
  - Data transport
  - Transcript request and response
- University of Lethbridge very involved in creating the Application for Admission standard to help ensure it met Canadian needs
Ontario College Application Service Inc. (OCAS), Guelph

- Created by Ontario's 24 public Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology and Institutes of Technology and Advanced Learning
- Primary services are applications to college, data warehousing, marketing
- Since 2003, has operated an EDI transcript hub for Ontario’s colleges, linked to the OUAC hub
- Uses PESC XML for transcripts with two colleges so far
- Supports an electronic high school transcript system for 53 school boards / 1,200 high schools
What ApplyAlberta and OCAS have achieved together

- Draft of a PESC Canadian High School Implementation Guide
  - Complements the existing PESC Implementation Guide
  - Makes recommendations for the Canadian sector
  - Plan to finalize Version 1.0 this week from Summit
  - Will serve as a resource for future exchange partners
  - A living document
- ApplyAlberta and OCAS plan to exchange high school transcripts in future
OCAS created eTMS (Electronic Transcript Management System) to collect eTranscripts from Ontario’s schools/school boards to send to Ontario colleges

- eTMS reduces transcript fulfillment from 28 days to under 5 days; auto-eTMS < 1 minute
- OUAC partnered with OCAS to leverage eTMS capabilities for its non-direct-entry applicants
- Transcripts from OCAS to the OUAC are in PESC XML; OUAC returns the PESC XML Transcript Acknowledgement
- Launched September 16, 2013
- Intra-provincial collaboration!
Saskatchewan

- Regular participation at User Group meetings
- No centralized application centre
- User group assembled to discuss transcript hub options
- Project underway to send high school transcripts from central government database to postsecondary institutions
- Plan to use PESC standards

Manitoba

- Three User Group members represent the province so far
- No centralized application centre
- In very preliminary stages of exploring electronic transcript exchange using standards
Establishing a provincial transcript service – HS & PS, using PESC standards
Intra-provincial high school exchange expected by September 2015
Postsecondary exchange to follow, all 10 universities and one college participating
Interprovincial exchange expected to follow after that

Joint venture possible between N.B. and N.S.
Education & Conferences

- Continue to educate Canadian sector on PESC standards and garner interest and participation for the Network
  - CANHEIT – June 2013
  - PCCAT – June 2013
  - WARUCC – June 2013

- Continue to attend conferences where standards and transcript exchange are discussed
  - International Association of Admissions Organizations – June 2013
  - AACRAO Technology – July 2013
  - PACRAO – October 2013
  - AACRAO – April 2014
  - Groningen Declaration Annual Meeting – April 2014
  - PESC Summits
National Transcript Guide Project

- ARUCC & PCCAT are updating the existing 2003 National Transcript Guide
- Project complements the efforts and projects of the Canadian PESC User Group
- Canadian PESC User Group members are represented on the ARUCC - PCCAT Advisory Working Group
- Exploratory phase has just completed; results of a national survey to be presented in June
What’s Ahead...

- A PESC Canadian Postsecondary Transcript Implementation Guide
  - In harmony with updated National Transcript Guide
  - To be worked on as trading partnerships are established
  - May be an addition to the High School Implementation Guide
- ARUCC 2014
  - Québec City, June 16-18
  - A forum to reach out and generate participation from Québec
  - Two sessions:
    - Update on Transcript Exchange Network
    - Roundtable mapping discussion
Why we do it...

- We believe in standards!
- Provides consistent data definitions across the country
- Makes adding new trading partners easier
- Facilitates student mobility
- Is scalable to accommodate future international needs
- Facilitates more timely transfer, articulation and admissions processes
- Improves data quality, security, integrity, accuracy and comprehensiveness
- Leads to business process efficiencies for both senders and receivers of data
- Offers opportunity to improve data analytics...
Thank you.

Questions?

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ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' APPLICATION CENTRE
CENTRE DE DEMANDE D'ADMISSION AUX UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ONTARIO