ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY
DATA STANDARDS
+
LEGACY

NEW TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE AT PESC

EDI, first introduced as a data standard in 1990 and still in wide use today throughout the USA for College Transcripts, was accompanied by the introduction of PESC Approved XML Data Standards in 2004.

This introduction of XML led to a widespread development environment in which PESC produced over a dozen XML data standards including the College Transcript, High School Transcript, ePortfolio, Test Score Reporting, Course Inventory, IPEDS, NSLDS Enrollment Reporting, federal student grant and aid programs for origination and disbursement (Common Record), and most recently the Common Credential for Certificates, Degrees and Diplomas.

A new technology which has emerged for use and implementation in education called JSON (JavaScript Object Notation), makes data more web services friendly and data exchange easier to automate. To develop and introduce PESC Approved JSON Data Standards, PESC launched the JSON Task Force one year ago and has since opened and expanded participation to include Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, Ukraine, the USA and Credential Engine.

A longer term strategy is needed though to address the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and distributed ledger technology (DLT). Combined with advanced data analytics, AI and DLT present the opportunity to transform business processes in the education, employment and training sectors. New data standards will be needed to support this transformation and enable machine-to-machine functionality; and this need will serve as the basis for PESC's Technology Task Force.

One key feature embedded in the mission of the PESC Technology Task Force will be inclusion of legacy systems and standards. While identifying and maximizing the benefits of emerging technologies are key to PESC's role, innovation and design within the Technology Task Force must address and consider the existing state and landscape of all stakeholders and their technological capacities, meaning *solutions must be usable*.

Through partnerships with AACRAO, ARUCC, A4L, CEDS, EMREX, EWP, HR Open Standards, the Groningen Declaration Network, & SPEEDE and with its Membership and Groups (e.g. Canadian PESC User Group), PESC is coordinating the next big jump in education technology and standards.

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