



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **National XML Test Score Reporting Workgroup Launches *Data Transport Specification Set for PESC Member Vote***

April 26, 2006 (*Washington DC*) ~ The Board of Directors and Steering Committee of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are very pleased to announce the launch of the *National XML Test Score Reporting Workgroup*. The request to form this workgroup under PESC originated from ACT, Inc. through a *Letter of Intent* submitted on December 6, 2005. This workgroup intends to work collaboratively with all interested parties in the education community to develop and submit for PESC approval, a National Test Score Reporting standard that can be used by any testing agency to fully communicate test score information to high schools, colleges and universities, affiliated third parties (clearinghouses, employers, research facilities, etc.), and local, state and federal agencies. The Workgroup will be co-chaired by: R. Bruce Nielsen, Senior Technical Associate of Enterprise Standards in Information Technology at ACT; and Monica Montoya, Director of Business Development at the College Board.

"This project will benefit both educational institutions and students," said Arthur C. Peters, Vice President, Information Technology at ACT. "Test scores, demographic and other educational information will be reported in a standardized way that will be easier to organize and read. We want all recipients of this information to be able to use it more effectively, whether it's a college, a scholarship organization, a government agency--anyone interested in this type of educational data."

The official launch of this workgroup takes place through a conference call hosted by PESC on **Wednesday June 14, 2006 at 12pm EDT**. All parties interested in this development effort are welcome to join this call (**dial 800-508-7631, then \*9976409\***). The agenda for the call will include history and background of this development effort, an overview of the business case and next steps (meeting dates, times, and locations). The moderator of the call will be Purdue University's Jeanenne Rothenberger, a longtime champion of standards and assigned mentor to the National Test Score Reporting Workgroup from the Standards Forum for Education's Submission Advisory Board.

In other news regarding the Data Transport Specification, all public comments on the Data Transport Specification received during the 30-day public comment period and their respective

responses are now posted on the PESC website at <http://www.PESC.org/Workgroups/DataTransport/>. As all requirements related to the public comment procedures have been satisfied, the Data Transport Specification will now be presented to the PESC Members for a Vote of Approval on May 1, 2006 during the 8th Annual Meeting of the PESC Membership. For those not attending the 8th Annual Meeting, official ballots are available at <http://www.PESC.org/Members/>. Completed ballots, including the reason(s) for any rejection, must be returned to the PESC office via e-mail attachment, fax, overnight delivery, or U.S. Postal Service within 10 business days. The voting period for PESC Members therefore expires on May 12, 2006.

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 7 calendar days ratify the vote, publish/post all necessary documents and communications, and implement version control on all documents. If the Specification is not approved, it will be returned to the Workgroup by the Change Control Board for possible revision. The Workgroup will have thirty (30) calendar days to modify and return the proposal if it desires to do so. The revised submission will retrace all previous steps. If rejected, the Specification will be returned to the Workgroup with the reasons (but not sources) of rejection, and the Workgroup will be provided an opportunity to respond to the cause(s) of rejection and resubmit the Specification without limitation.

**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.*

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