# College Foundation of North Carolina's
# "Electronic High School Transcript System"
## Wins Top Award in PESC's 11th Annual Best Practices Competition
### Kristi Blabaum of NASLA and Michael Morris of ACT
### Honored with Distinguished Service Awards

*Washington DC* – The Board of Directors of PESC - the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council is very pleased to announce "*Electronic High School Transcript System*" submitted by the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) as Winner of PESC's 11th Annual Best Practices Competition for 2009. This submission received high praise from the Board Review Committee for Best Practices as it focused strategically on the use and support of data and standards and the infrastructure necessary to carry out its long-term goals and vision. The Best Practices Competition is held each year by PESC to promote innovation and ingenuity in the application of standards for business needs. An Awards Ceremony will be held immediately prior to the keynote address of PESC's Spring 2010 Data Summit being held April 1 – 2, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

In making this submission, Robin Greene, Senior Associate Director, Technology and Internet Services, CFNC, UNC General Administration highlighted its innovative approach stating, "[this system] is the first and only implementation of electronic high school transcripts in the state." To support its long-term vision, Ms. Greene added, "[this system} is built on a sustainable system infrastructure among a unique collaborative partnership of secondary and postsecondary education entities... it is expandable to include future growth state- and nationwide with additional secondary school districts as well as postsecondary entities using national data standards such as those created and adopted under PESC."

CFNC is a joint effort of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, College Foundation Inc., and Pathways of North Carolina. The Pathways partnership was requested by the UNC Board of Governors, is funded by the General Assembly, and includes the NC Department of Public Instruction (K-12), NC Community College System (58), NC Independent College and Universities (36), and the UNC System (16). At its main data center, the system processes approximately 5,200 transcripts per month for 440 high schools.

At its Awards Ceremony, PESC will also honor Kristi Blabaum of Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation (represented under PESC member NASLA - National Association of Student Loan Administrators) and Michael Morris of ACT with "Distinguished Service Awards."  Ms. Blabaum currently serves as Chair of the Change Control Board (CCB) under PESC's Standards Forum for Education, a volunteer position she's held for the past several years.  In this role, she leads the data analysis efforts of the CCB ultimately determining what passes as a PESC standard.  She has been a standards advocate for over a decade gaining expertise through her extensive background in student aid technology and business processes.  Michael Morris served as Co-Chair of the Education Test Score Reporting Workgroup and drove the development group over a three year period to ultimately produce a robust, high quality standard with correspondingly thorough documentation.  With the Education Test Score Reporting standard now completed and available for implementation, Mr. Morris continues to volunteer and contribute to other development workgroups within PESC including its Recruitment and Enrollment Workgroup.

For more information about PESC, please visit www.PESC.org.  To see a complete listing of all past winners of the Best Practices Competition and Distinguished Services Awards, please click on the *Events* tab.

**About PESC**
Established in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), community-based, umbrella association of colleges and universities; college and university systems; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; non-profit organizations and associations; and state and federal government agencies.  Through open and transparent community participation, PESC enables cost-effective connectivity between data systems to accelerate performance and service, to simplify data access and research, and to improve data quality along the higher education lifecycle.  PESC envisions national and international interoperability, that is a trustworthy, inter-connected environment built by and between communities of interest in which data flows seamlessly from one system to another and throughout the entire eco-system when and where needed without compatibility barriers but in a safe, secure, reliable, and efficient manner.  For more information, please visit www.PESC.org.


# # #

June 16, 2010

Robin S. Greene
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Robin

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC), I am very pleased to provide College Foundation of North Carolina with PESC's 2009 Annual Best Practices Award! As we previously discussed, our Board Review Committee was very pleased with your "Electronic High School Transcript System" submission and found it worthy of this distinction and award.

The submission will be posted prominently ad infinitum on PESC's website at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=153 along with the previous award winners.

Thank you to you and the entire team in North Carolina for providing valuable information and services to the education community, and once again, congratulations!

My best regards


Michael D. Sessa
President & CEO
PESC


*Unlocking the Power of Data!*

# CFNC.org

## Electronic High School Transcript System
## Best Practices

January 2010

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college

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# Data Standards - Best Practices
## Overview of Presentation

- Brief description of statewide collaborative partnership

- North Carolina's statewide approach to implementing electronic high school transcripts (eHSTs) using national standards

- System infrastructure overview focusing on current data standards and usage

- Sustainability

- Future Developments

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# Statewide Collaborate Partnership

- CFNC is a joint effort of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, College Foundation, Inc., and Pathways of North Carolina.

- The Pathways partnership was requested by the UNC Board of Governors, funded by the 1999 General Assembly, and includes the:

  - NC Department of Public Instruction (K-12)
  - NC Community College System (58)
  - NC Independent Colleges and Universities (36)
  - UNC System (16)

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# Statewide Collaborate Partnership

501(c)(3) nonprofit - administers grants, loans and savings program on behalf of the state

State-funded K-16 partnership (NCDPI, NCCCS, NCICU, UNC) administered by UNC General Administration

CFI

Pathways

NCSEAA

College Foundation of North Carolina

State agency responsible for statewide college aid programs – grants scholarships, loans, 529 savings

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# North Carolina – Statewide Approach

- North Carolina's eHST *initiative* began on/before 1999 - funding provided for the public schools to convert to a common SIS System, "NCWISE"

- Requirement of funding -> electronic high school transcripts (eHSTs)

- Capitalize on resources & technology
  - ❖ Common SIS System (NCWISE)
  - ❖ NC Standardized HS Transcript
  - ❖ Central Repository

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# Statewide College Access Portal – CFNC.org
# Electronic High School Transcript Ordering



Students can submit online admissions applications to any of the 110 participating campuses on CFNC.org

Electronic transcripts can be requested with online app submittal or within Transcript Manager

Transcript Manager - student provides login credentials and data criteria before request can be made

Data provided for the request:
- First and Last Name
- Date of Birth
- NCWISE Student ID
- Gender
- High School
- E-mail Address

Transcript Manager - provides tracking

•All transcript activity (current and final)

# System Infrastructure Overview

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## 3 NCWISE data repositories

## 2 Electronic High School Transcript Processes

1. **NCDPI Main – host for 480 public/charter HSs (eHST process uses ANSI X12 EDI transaction sets with the UT Austin SPEEDE Server)**
2. **Wake County – host for 26 public HSs (eHST process uses PESC XML high school transcript schema and web services)**
3. **Charlotte-Mecklenburg County – host for 32 public HSs (eHST process not yet implemented)**

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# System Infrastructure Overview
# NCDPI - Standards

**NCDPI – Data Center**

NCWISE Data Warehouse

High School

High School
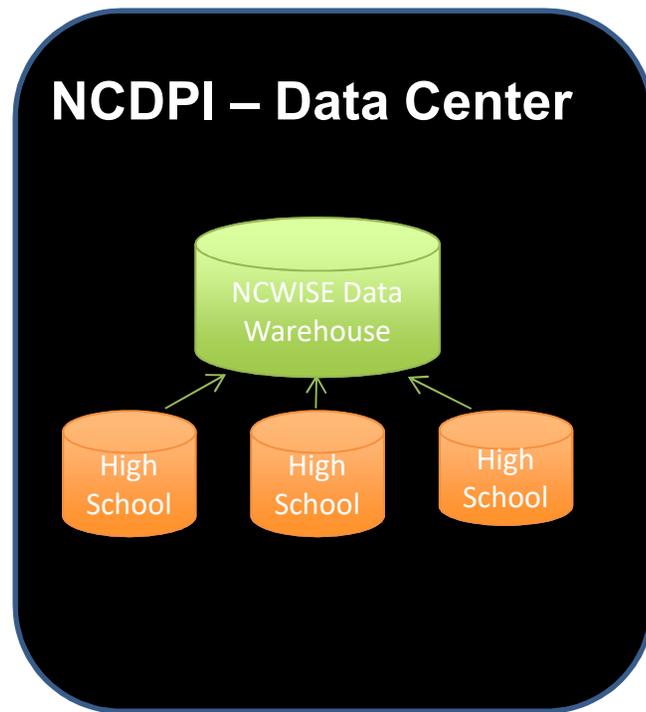
High School

- ANSI X12 data standards:
  - TS146
  - TS147
  - TS130
  - TS131
  - TS997

- UT SPEEDE Server

- 2 Trading Partners – DPI & CFNC

- High School transcript requests from 440 high schools; delivered to 110 NC Colleges and Universities via CFNC.org

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# Electronic Document Exchange - Usage
## High School Transcripts – NCDPI Main Data Center

System went live in 2003 with 33 high schools – added schools to CFNC Transcript system as they were converted to NCWISE

- Fall 2003 – 33 high schools
- Fall 2009 – 440 high schools

- Process approximately 5,200 transcripts / month

- Heavier traffic in fall and early summer

CFNC.org

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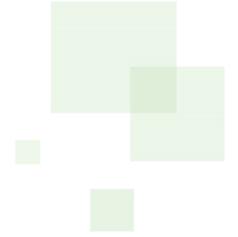
# Electronic Document Exchange
# High School Transcripts – NCDPI Main Data Center

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
| --- | --- |
| Current transcript request created & processed with about a 24-72 hour turnaround time from request to delivery | System is complex and sometimes difficult to track errors |
| Final transcript request automatically created – released when final grades and diploma received dates are posted at the high school level | Increase in turnaround time when errors occur |
| Student Tracking | Final transcript requests get created BEFORE system knows the current transcript processed successfully – creates additional unnecessary work and bandwidth on the system |
| Counselor Tracking | Increased usage over the years – system not equipped to handle large files |

# System Infrastructure Overview
# Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) - Standards

**Wake Co – Data Center**

NCWISE Data Warehouse

High School

High School
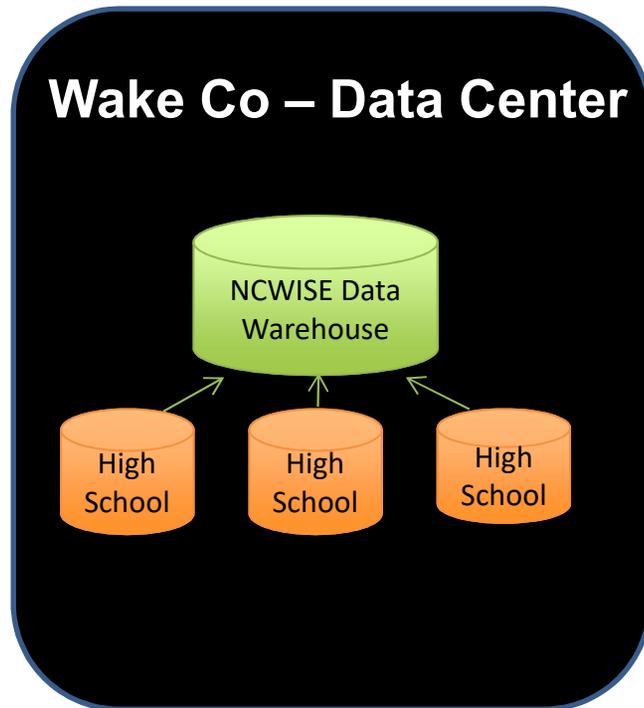
High School

- PESC XML high school transcript schema version 1.0

- Web Services for point-to-point delivery

- 2 Trading Partners – WCPSS & CFNC

- High School transcript requests from 27 high schools; delivered to 110 NC Colleges and Universities via CFNC.org

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## Electronic Document Exchange - Usage
## High School Transcripts - Wake Co. Data Center

System went live in May 2009 with 8 high schools

- Fall 2009 – 26 high schools

- Process approximately 2,200 transcripts / month

- Heavier traffic in fall and early summer

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# Electronic Document Exchange
# High School Transcripts – WCPSS

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
| --- | --- |
| Real-time delivery of current transcript | Had to write mapping for XML to EDI to conform to current system |
| Final transcript request automatically created AFTER successful response from current transcript request | |
| Student Tracking | |
| Counselor Tracking | |

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# Electronic Document Exchange
# High School Transcripts
# Charlotte-Mecklenburg Data Center

**CMSS– Data Center**

NCWISE Data Warehouse

High School | High School | High School
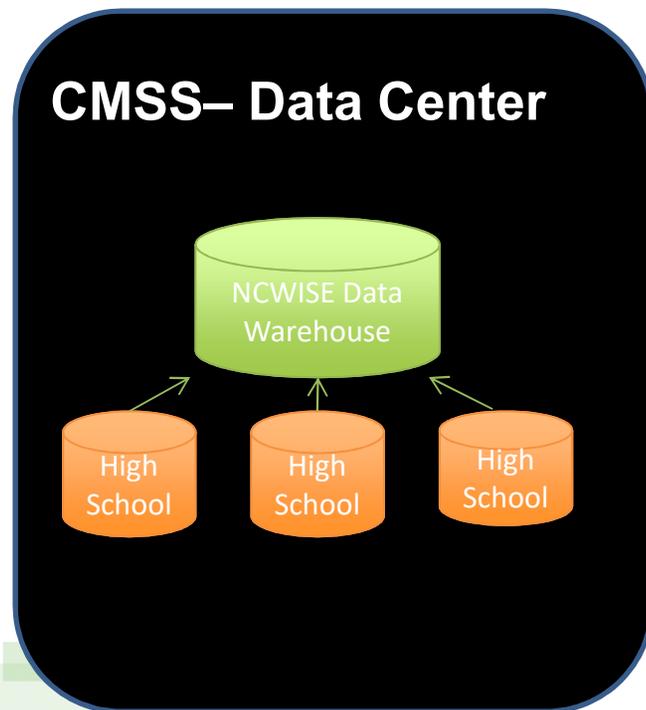
- Future development for electronic transcripts

- PESC XML high school transcript schemas and web services infrastructure

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# System Infrastructure Overview
## CFNC.org 110 Participating Colleges & Universities

- 110 Colleges & Universities on CFNC.org

- Authenticated Administrative Center to download CFNC data
  - Prospects
  - Applications
  - Transcripts

- Transcript download formats for colleges

| PDF | •Manual load<br>•Import to imaging system |
|---|---|
| TS130 | Import to SIS |
| PESC XML | Import to SIS |

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# Sustainability

✦ Student interface for high school transcript ordering built on statewide college access web portal that is mostly funded by NC General Assembly

✦ Exclusive Agreement between CFNC and NCDPI for electronic high school transcript processing

✦ PESC and ANSI Standards utilized in all electronic transcript document exchanges

| ANSI X12 EDI | File Transfer Protocol |
| --- | --- |
| PESC XML Schemas | Web Services |

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# Sustainability (continued)

✦ Increased usage/volume as high schools are added to the CFNC Transcript System

✦ Consistent encouragement for use of data standards when enhancements, upgrades and new development occurs

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# Future Development

Upgrade NCDPI's EDX system from ANSI X12 and File Transfer Protocol to PESC XML and Web Service technologies

Implement electronic transcripts among the 110 CFNC participating colleges using PESC XML and Web Service technologies

Enhance existing high school electronic transcripts to provide capability to send eHSTs out-of-state

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# Summary

- Statewide electronic high school transcript system built on college access web portal, CFNC.org, serving over 500 public high schools and 110 colleges and universities

- 3 Trading Partners (CFNC, NCDPI, WCPSS) which are all entities of a unique collaborative partnership that make up CFNC

- Electronic high school transcripts delivered in various formats/standards

| PDF | • Manual load<br>• Import to imaging system |
|---|---|
| TS130 | Import to SIS |
| PESC XML | Import to SIS |

- Future enhancements to develop statewide electronic college transcript system

CFNC.org

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# Acknowledgements

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| Dawn Castonguay | Senior Director, Information Systems | Wake County Public School System |
| Kent Cooper | Database Administrator | College Foundation, Incorporated |
| Robin Greene | Senior Associate Director, Technology and Internet Services for CFNC.org | UNC General Administration |
| Stephanie Whitten | Programmer/Analyst, NCWISE Data Management | NC Department of Public Instruction |

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