



MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS. ONE VISION.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2019
Contact:
Jennifer Kim
Membership Services Director
jennifer.kim@pesc.org

20TH YEAR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

DIGITARY'S SIMONE RAVAIOLI, EDUCATIONPLANNERBC'S CATHY VAN SOEST, GDN'S HERMAN DE LEEUW, UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX'S MONTEREY SIMS HONORED AT FALL 2019 DATA SUMMIT IN MONTREAL

Washington, D.C. ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce its Distinguished Service Awards for 2019 honoring **Herman de Leeuw**, Executive Director of the Groningen Declaration Network; **Simone Ravaoli**, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Digitary; **Monterey Sims**, Director of Admissions and Evaluation, University of Phoenix; and **Cathy van Soest**, Manager, Transcript Services, EducationPlannerBC.

PESC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS 2019



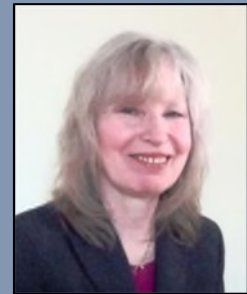
Herman de Leeuw
Executive Director
Groningen Declaration Network



Simone Ravaoli
Director of Strategic Partnerships
Digitary



Monterey Sims
Director of Admissions & Evaluation
University of Phoenix



Cathy van Soest
Manager, Transcript Services
EducationPlannerBC

“Honoring Cathy, Herman, Monterey and Simone, their accomplishments, their leadership and continued dedication over the years and decades, is a perfect way to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of PESC’s Awards,” states Michael Sessa, PESC President & CEO. “They join a long and distinguished list of leaders over the years that have truly helped students, universities and colleges around the world,” Mr. Sessa adds.

The Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday October 23, 2019 at the opening of the PESC Fall 2019 Data Summit being held in Montreal.

ABOUT PESC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Many, many volunteers from the PESC membership and education community have helped shape PESC into the organization it is today. The key to PESC's success is the valuable output (from white papers to development, approval and maintenance processes of standards and services) produced through workgroups and committees that are staffed and run by these volunteers. Certain individuals from the PESC Membership, like Herman de Leeuw, Simone Ravaoli, Monterey Sims and Cathy van Soest have gone above and beyond the call of duty and PESC takes the opportunity each year to recognize them with Distinguished Service Awards. Distinguished Service Awards serve as our opportunity to say thank you for being a leader and for making a positive impact on education.

Herman de Leeuw is Originator and Executive Director of the Groningen Declaration Network, an international public benefit foundation registered with the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce; and currently serves on the PESC GEO Code User Group Steering Committee. He is passionate about putting citizens in control over their own data sets, that is, about bringing

together a person's formal, nonformal and informal education attainments and professional experience in a person's "Digital Learner Currency" which that person may access and choose to share with whomever, wherever at any time.

Herman brings that vision into practice by bringing relevant stakeholders around the globe together at the annual meeting of the Groningen Declaration Network. Volunteerism and international cooperation lie at the bottom of his professional life, which began as a regular presenter at conferences such as AACRAO, EAIE, EUNIS, NAFSA and so forth.

From 2006 till 2014, Herman served in elected positions within EAIE, the European Association for International Education, from 2006-2008 as member of its Expert Community for Admissions Officers and Credential Evaluators (ACE), and from 2008-2012 as ACE chair. In 2010, he co-established, together with Simone Ravaoli, EAIE's Task Force DSDP (Digital Student Data Portability). In 2012, Herman initiated the Groningen Declaration Network which he has been driving and supporting from the start as its Executive Secretary, from December 2016 onwards as its Executive Director.

In September 2015, Herman received EAIE's President's Award for outstanding service. In September 2018, Herman was selected as one of three nominees for the PIEoneer Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Industry. In 1988, Herman graduated with an MA (honors) from Leiden University, The Netherlands, in Arabic Language and Literature. In 2005, Herman was trained as a forensic document researcher at the Netherlands National Police Academy.

Simone Ravaoli is an EdTech influencer with a specific expertise on digital micro-credentials and interests in Blockchain technologies; and currently serves on the PESC Competencies and Credentials User Group Steering Committee. Simone holds a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Management Information Systems from Loyola University Chicago (2001). After a corporate experience in New York and Milano, he joined CINECA (2006), the leading consortium of Italian Universities dedicated to developing Student Information Systems for HE. As International Affairs Manager, Simone led the organisation's international strategy in the EHEA, as well as setting up its operations in Turkey.

In 2007, Simone became a founding member of RS3G – an international group of HE implementers focusing on data exchange standards. From 2010 to 2014, he was chair of the Digital Student Data Portability task force of European Association for International Education (EAIE); an entity that went on to seed the creation of the Groningen Declaration Network (2012) of which he is currently a relentless activist. He became the EAIE Rising Star recipient in 2011.

In 2014, the epiphany with Open Badges saw Simone become Chief Dreamer of Bestr, the first Italian badging platform and this appointment saw him invited as a TEDx speaker in 2015 in Bologna. In 2016, he contributed to kickstarting BadgeChain, an early initiative aimed at exploring the impact of the Blockchain revolution onto the Open Badges ecosystems.

Since early 2017, he has served as Business Development Executive EMEA at Digitary, a global provider of secure online credentials in Higher Education with a special mandate to bring into the strategic roadmap digital micro-credentials and blockchain architectures. In 2017, he was invited as keynote speaker at the launch of both the EntreComp framework and ESCO, which led to further scoping work on Open Badges and Competence Frameworks for the Joint Research Center of the EC. Simone currently sits on the Advisory Board of the Open Recognition Alliance.

Monterey Sims is the Director of Admissions and Evaluation at the University of Phoenix; and currently serves on the PESC EdExchange Steering Committee and Chair of the PESC Seal of Approval Board. She has worked at the University for 26 years enabling her to connect with technology challenges, ideas, and solutions daily.

Monterey is directly responsible for the Office of Admissions Document Processing division which includes overseeing centralized document services for Admissions, Records, Internal Veterans Affairs, and Financial Services. She strongly believes in root cause analysis, continuous relentless improvement and collaboration. She spearheaded the implementation of electronic data exchange at the University over a decade ago and continues to enhance related processes and partnerships through her work in PESC and AACRAO.

Monterey also served on the PACRAO 2019 Annual Meeting Committee; was selected as Business Partner Liaison on the PACRAO Board of Directors 2020-2021; serves on the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee and AACRAO's Nominations and Elections Committee; serves on the eTrans California Steering Committee; serves on the Go Army Ed Modernization Advisory Committee; and is a National Student Clearinghouse ETX Portal Pilot. Monterey is married with three grown girls as well as the two most loving English Bulldogs (also girls).

Cathy van Soest is Manager of Transcript Services with EducationPlannerBC, a provincial online application, transcript exchange and academic program information service supporting students and post-secondary institutions in British Columbia, Canada. She facilitates the on-going development and implementation of electronic transcript exchange services with post-secondary institutions.

Cathy has worked in both the post-secondary and K-12 sectors and has a background in open learning, education technology and international education. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Canadian Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council User Group (CanPESC) and a member of the ARUCC Groningen & Student Mobility Project Steering Committee.

ABOUT THE POSTSECONDARY ELECTRONIC STANDARDS COUNCIL

ESTABLISHED IN 1997 AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

PESC is an international, 501 (c)(3) non-profit, community-based, umbrella association of data, software and education technology service providers; schools, districts, colleges and universities; college, university and state/provincial systems; local, state/provincial and federal government agencies; professional, commercial, vendor and non-profit organizations; and non-profit associations & foundations.

LEADING THE ESTABLISHMENT & ADOPTION OF TRUSTED, FREE & OPEN DATA STANDARDS ACROSS THE EDUCATION DOMAIN SINCE 1997

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 Education lifecycle. PESC envisions global interoperability within the Education domain, supported by a trustworthy, inter-connected network built by and between communities of interest in which data flows digitally and seamlessly from one community or system to another and throughout the entire ecosystem when and where needed without compatibility barriers but in a safe, secure, reliable, legal, and efficient manner.

ABOUT PRIVACY While PESC promotes the implementation and usage of data exchange standards, PESC does not set (create or establish) policies related to privacy and security. Organizations and entities using PESC Approved Standards and services should ensure they comply with GDPR, FERPA and all local, state/provincial, federal and international rules & regulations on privacy and security as applicable. For more information, see www.PESC.org.

PESC IS SPONSORED ANNUALLY by Credentials Solutions, Digitary, National Student Clearinghouse, Oracle, Parchment, DegreeData & Educational Credential Evaluators.

PESC PARTNERS include AACRAO, APEREO, ARUCC, A4L Community, DXtera Institute, EMREX, Erasmus Without Paper (EWP), Groningen Declaration Network (GDN), HR Open Standards, SHEEO, the USCCF's T3 Innovation Network and the US Department of Education's Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) Initiative.

PESC IS A PROUD EXHIBITOR at AACRAO's Annual Meeting, ARUCC's Bi-Annual Meeting, and the Annual STATS-DC Conference of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the US Department of Education.

PESC IS A PROUD SPONSOR of AIR's Annual Conference & of the Annual California Electronic Transcripts Workshop and CCCApply.

PESC IS A PROUD MEMBER/AFFILIATE/SIGNATORY of AACRAO, the Groningen Declaration Network, the USCCF's T3 Innovation Network, and the US NCES National Forum on Education Statistics.

PESC HAS A STRONG HISTORY that includes AACRAO, SPEEDE, EDI, ANSI, X12, Canada, the US Department of Education and Y2K.

IN FULFILLING ITS NON-PROFIT MISSION, all PESC Approved Standards are available to the Education Community online free of charge at www.PESC.org.

###



**ANNUAL
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
AWARDS**

2018





ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Many, many volunteers from the PESC membership and education community have helped shape PESC into the organization it is today and we truly thank everyone. The success of PESC is due primarily to the valuable output (from white papers to development, approval and maintenance processes of standards) produced through workgroups and committees that are staffed and run by these volunteers. Certain individuals have gone above and beyond the call of duty and PESC takes the opportunity each year to recognize them with *Distinguished Service Awards*. *Distinguished Service Awards* serve as our opportunity to say thank you for being a leader and for making a positive impact on education.

2018

Janie Barnett
Matt Bemis
National Student Clearinghouse

2017

ARUCC
Brian Allison
Doug Falk
Mei Hung
Dave Moldoff
Rick Skeel

2016

Thomas Black
Francisco Valines
Leisa Wellsman
Andy Wood

2015

California Community College
Technology Center
Jeffrey Alderson

2014

Brian Allison
Doug Holmes
David Webber

2013

Hans L'Orange
Susan McCrackin

2012

John Ittelson, Ph.D.

2011

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee
Charles Leonhardt

2010

Kristi Blabaum
Michael Morris

2009

Steve Biklen
Dave Moldoff
Clare Smith-Larson

2008

Judith Flink

2007

AACRAO
Jim Farmer

2006

Ed Hauser
Keith Riccitelli
Tom Stewart

2005

Tim Bornholtz
Mark Bolembach

2004

Holly Hyland
Adele Marsh
Dallas Martin
Bruce Marton

2003

Jerry Bracken

2002

Steve Margenau
Adele Marsh
Bruce Marton
Paul Ness
Jeanenne Rothenberger
Michael Sessa

2001

Rebecca Babel
Ellen Blackmun
Steve Margenau
Karl Van Neste

2000

David Leonard
Tim Pavlick
Dave Stones