ACADEMIC CREDENTIALING & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TASK FORCE FORMS UNDER PESC

MISSION LOOKS BEYOND EXTENDING TRANSCRIPT TO ENHANCING MOBILITY AND DIGITILIZATION OF STUDENT EDUCATION DATA AND CREDENTIALS

Washington, D.C.   The Board of Directors of PESC is pleased to announce the formation of an inter-organizational Task Force focused on *Academic Credentialing and Experiential Learning*. The formation of the Task Force was discussed in a widely-attended, open general session at the recently held PESC Spring 2015 Data Summit ED DATA SYSTEMS. Considering a keener and more demanding workforce requires stronger and more targeted talent and skills, the discussion focused on the emergence of innovative ideas and processes attempting to capture potential skills and talents not included in the traditional digital record.

"As registrars, many of us struggle constantly to maintain consistency in the face of faculty and student demands for a more comprehensive credential that documents the student academic experience in greater depth," Dr. Rodney Parks, Registrar at Elon University, states in winning PESC's 16th Annual Best Practices Competition.

The final mission of the Task Force along with its goals and outputs will be determined by the Task Force as it prepares for its inaugural meeting. Initial tasks include: serving as a resource for the education community and archiving all relevant articles, statutes and regulations, guides and references developed throughout the sector by various stakeholders; identifying and monitoring emerging innovations, best practices and prototypes to ensure awareness and transparency, and; collaborating with all other stakeholders that are leading the space in academic credentialing and experiential learning.

Chairing the Task Force is Thomas C. Black, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs and University Registrar at Stanford University. Mr. Black has worked in higher education for over 37 years in various administrative positions including the registrar offices of the University of Chicago, Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He's an honorary member of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars; and he frequently presents at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers annual conferences. Mr. Black has served as a member of the National Student Clearinghouse Advisory Board and currently serves as Executive Committee Member of the Groningen Declaration Network.

Thomas C. Black, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs and University Registrar at Stanford University

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Perfecting the electronic transcript and its safe delivery via the internet is Tom Black's ongoing work.   He's also interested in increasing the exchange of student data using national standards while ensuring only authorized access to that information. More recently, he has collaborated internationally with a successful data exchange program involving a commercial partner locally and the Ministry of Education in China. Mr. Black received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Pennsylvania State University.

"We've finally reached the tipping point whereby we can leverage technology to accomplish what the student needs not only while they are in the classroom learning, but beyond as well," Mr. Black states. "PESC's mission and the stakeholders they collaborate with create the only open and transparent environment needed to affect the landscape on such a broad scale."

Joellen Shendy, Associate Vice Provost and Registrar at University of Maryland University College

Alex Jackl, CEO and Co-Founder of Bardic Systems

Co-Chairing the Task Force are Alex Jackl and Joellen Shendy. Alex Jackl is the CEO and co-founder of Bardic Systems, an Education Enterprise System consulting firm. He is a technology strategist, data scientist, and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience leading the development of technology and policy solutions for educational enterprise systems. Mr. Jackl is nationally recognized as a leader in state, national, and multinational initiatives, developing practical applications for use of standards and data. His focus is on the implementation of mature, modern architectures and strategies. Alex also works closely with leaders on visioning skills to prepare and enable organizations to implement effective, successful, and long-lasting transformation and serves as Technical Board Chair of the SIF Association.

"Standardization does not happen overnight, but even now, competency-based solutions are being built in the market," Mr. Jackl concludes. "We must provide some guidance and partnership now and nurture education standards development to ensure we provide the highest value and efficiency to students who deserve better than what they may perceive as a free-for-all."

Joellen Shendy is Associate Vice Provost and Registrar at the University of Maryland University College. Ms. Shendy has spent 24 years in higher education in a Registrar's Office. She has presented at numerous national and international conferences including NAFSA, AACRAO, CAPACRAO, UPCEA, PACRAO, PESC Data Summit, and Learning Impact Leadership Institute on a variety of topics including foreign credential evaluation, foreign document evaluation, and extending the transcript for competency based education. Ms. Shendy was formerly the Registrar at National University in San Diego, CA and is currently the Associate Vice Provost & Registrar at University of Maryland University College in Adelphi, MD.

"We want to provide students with a digital extended transcript that they can use, from the beginning of their learning journey through completion and as an alumni with employers and other parties, to engage in meaningful dialogue on their skills, abilities, and knowledge," Ms. Shendy adds. "We believe this effort will help them better represent their most valuable commodity – themselves and PESC is a strong resource for helping us achieve this goal."

The inaugural meeting of the Task Force will be held by conference call on Wednesday July 1, 2015 at 2pm EDT. PESC has implemented a listserve to support the Task Force and all information related to the Task Force including meetings and updates will be communicated through the listserve. The Task Force and listserve are *open and free* to all education stakeholders. To join the Task Force and/or the listserve, please contact Jennifer Kim, PESC's Membership Services Director, at +1.202.261.6516 or at jennifer.kim@pesc.org.

Representatives of the PESC Academic Credentialing and Experiential Learning Task Force will be presenting on this very topic at the upcoming STATS-DC Conference sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education. The panel session is scheduled for Friday July 10, 2015 at 9am. The conference is being held at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C.

For more information about PESC and our Academic Credentialing and Experiential Learning Task Force, please visit www.PESC.org. For questions or concerns about PESC and/or about PESC events and activities, please contact Jennifer Kim, PESC's Membership Services Director, at +1.202.261.6516 or jennifer.kim@pesc.org.

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