UNLOCKING THE POWER OF DATA

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CANADIAN PESC USER GROUP LINKS INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS WHILE MAINTAINING "ONE STANDARD"
NEW PESC USER GROUP TO GOVERN AND PROMOTE
CANADIAN-BASED STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS WITHIN PESC

(Washington DC) – PESC is very pleased to announce the formation of a *Canadian PESC User Group* that will ensure PESC's mission and all deliverables including development and release of PESC Approved Standards support and incorporate Canadian-based stakeholder interests.

As many software providers and systems vendors support both US and Canadian markets, the Canadian PESC User Group will encourage participation in PESC XML workgroups developing PESC Approved Standards, and; promote and educate Canadian stakeholders on the importance of data standards and interoperability thereby avoiding duplication of efforts and of data standards.

"With PESC Approved Standards [High School and College Transcripts, Admissions Application] being implemented throughout Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario, the time has come to formalize the relationship between Canadian interests and PESC," stated William McKee, Director of Operations at the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) and Co-Chair of the Canadian PESC User Group. "This partnership ensures collaboration for Canadian-based stakeholders and will ultimately benefit students in Canada and the United States of America," Mr. McKee added."

The first deliverable of the Canadian PESC User Group is to introduce PESC at the Association of Registrars of Colleges and Universities of Canada (ARUCC) Conference June 25-28, 2012 in Ottawa. PESC staff will support a booth in the exhibit hall while several sessions are being submitted for consideration on the conference program including: *Introducing PESC!*, *XML and Web Services 101*, *PESC Success Stories*, *Vendor Perspectives*, *Research Perspective: STATS Canada & Canadian Institutional Research & Planning Association (CIRPA)* and a *Roundtable Discussion*.

The Canadian PESC User Group participants include representatives from ApplyAlberta, Association of Registrars of Colleges and Universities of Canada (ARUCC), BCcampus, Decision Academic Inc., Ontario Ministry of Training for Colleges and Universities

(MTCU), Ontario College Application Service (OCAS), Ontario Colleges, Ontario Universities' Application Centre, Statistics Canada, SunGard Higher Education, and University of Lethbridge. The User Group is also conducting outreach to their respective membership organizations and other stakeholders such as The Canadian University Council of Chief Information Officers (CUCCIO).   The User Group meets monthly by Web Ex and conference call and meets in person during PESC's Spring and Fall Data Summits.

For more information about the Canadian PESC User Group, please visit their page on the PESC website at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=215. For questions or concerns about PESC and/or about PESC events and activities, please contact Jennifer Kim, PESC's Membership Services Director, at 202.261.6514 or jennifer.kim@pesc.org.

ABOUT PESC

Established in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education and located in Washington, D.C., PESC is a non-profit, community-based, 501 (c)(3) 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 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. To achieve the mission and the vision, PESC organizes activities to: accelerate performance and service, reduce cost, lead collaborative development, set and maintain common data standards, promote best practices, link public and private sectors, and serve as data experts.

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 standards and services should ensure they comply with FERPA and all local, state, federal and international rules on privacy and security as applicable. For more information, see www.PESC.org.

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