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CONTACT: JENNIFER KIM  
+1.202.261.6516  
[info@pesc.org](mailto:info@pesc.org)  
[www.pesc.org](http://www.pesc.org)  
[www.twitter.com/pescupdates](https://www.twitter.com/pescupdates)  
[www.facebook.com/pescupdates](https://www.facebook.com/pescupdates)  
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# PESC ANNOUNCES 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## INNOVATION & COLLABORATION FOR THE GREATER COMMON GOOD REMAIN CORE VALUES

*Washington, D.C.* ~ The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce PESC's 25<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary in 2022! Highlights of major plans and events occurring throughout the year include:

- » The [April 2022 Data Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. April 25-27, 2022. PESC returns to the beautiful and centrally located Dupont Circle Hotel.
- » The [October 2022 Data Summit](#) in Vancouver October 26-28, 2022. PESC returns to the magnificent city of Vancouver with the [Canadian PESC User Group Meeting](#) taking place one day prior, hosted by EducationPlannerBC.
- » The [Gender Identity in Data Systems & Lifelong Learning Task Force](#), which will launch at the April 2022 Data Summit in Breakout and be open to the community. Three Summit Panels will be featured prior to the launch and Task Force meetings will be subsequently held including at the October 2022 Data Summit.
- » [Founder Awards to AACRAO and Ellucian](#), to recognize and honor both for continuous annual membership in PESC and successful, continual election to the Board of Directors since PESC's founding. AACRAO's Executive Director Melanie Gottlieb will also provide the Keynote Address at the April 2022 Data Summit.
- » [Outstanding Service Awards](#) for Kristi Blabaum, Doug Falk, Doug Holmes, David Moldoff, Michael Morris, Susan McCrackin, Rick Skeel and Francisco Valines – each with decades of experience, commitment and service to the community.
- » The [23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Best Practices Competition](#), with eligibility now expanded for submissions: by role, by region and by technology.



In 1997, leaders in higher education convened at the National Center for Higher Education One Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C to form PESC.

- » [New Sponsorships](#) from AcademyOne (now Gold), Ascendium, Oracle, ACEI and University of Phoenix – who join existing Diamond Sponsors Digitary, National Student Clearinghouse and Parchment; and Silver Sponsor ECE.
- » PESC's [24<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Meeting](#) during the April 2022 Data Summit, at which elections for the PESC Board of Directors are held and announced.
- » Continuation of the [JSON/JSON-LD Task Force](#) and [JSON Transcript Workgroup](#), both coordinating the acceleration and adoption of JSON & JSON-LD.

PESC's 25<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary will commence at the April 2022 Data Summit. For more information about the April 2022 Data Summit and how to register, click [HERE](#).

### Brief History of PESC

On August 18, 1997, 29 representatives of 16 higher education associations<sup>1</sup>, administrative software vendors, the U.S. Department of Education, institutions, student financial aid lenders, secondary markets, guaranty agencies and servicers<sup>1</sup> gathered at the National Center for Higher Education at One Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. to explore the creation of a partnership to promote and facilitate the use of standards for data sharing. At that time, several major factors relating to standardization were emerging and the higher education community had reached the point where centralized organization was needed.

One of the primary drivers was that Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for student transactions in the admissions and registrar functions (transcript, test score, admissions application, etc.) were in the process of being developed and deployed. Benefits of standardization were being realized and other sectors of higher education were interested in realizing these benefits as well. Another primary driver was the launch of the U.S. Department of Education's "modernization" effort entitled Project EASI (Easy Access for Students and Institutions) which looked to reengineer their convoluted and disparate 13 stovepipe systems. Maintenance and development costs for those systems were increasing exponentially; yet at the same time, accessing those systems was difficult and obtaining accurate and reliable data took weeks and sometimes months.

Another major driver related to FSA was the launch of the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDSLSP) in 1993 by the U.S. Department of Education as statutorily mandated by the U.S. Congress through Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Up until that time, federal loans were being made by hundreds of banks and other organizations in various proprietary formats, numbering in the hundreds. FDSLSP, which circumvented all bank and other private involvement in the loan process, introduced a single standard and those banks and organizations found themselves needing to respond with standards as well.

The final driver involved the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 which required all Federal agencies to collaborate and participate in standards-setting bodies. The intent of this statute was to reduce the complexity, duplication and cost for the Federal government in developing standards; that the costs should be shared in a public/private environment or precluded if a standard already existed. Lastly, this act

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<sup>1</sup> Organizations included: AACRAO, ACT, Brigham Young University, Educause, Citibank, COHEAO, Datatel, EFC, ETS, Harbinger-Supply Tech, KPMG, Law School Admission Council, NACUBO, NASFAA, NCHELP, New York University, Pearson, Sallie Mae, Sungard SCT, SLISA, University of Oklahoma, University of Texas at Austin, U.S. Department of Education

established the Executive Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the oversight body for Federal agency compliance with the act with support from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).<sup>2</sup>

The conclusion of that meeting resulted in the agreement to form the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). PESC established a Board of Directors, a membership base, and a number of short term goals, workgroups, and received certification as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1999. PESC continues to govern all EDI transaction sets already developed, is converting those transactions sets to XML, and is developing a number of other transactions in XML as well. In addition, PESC hosts a number of national meetings and conferences each year and is tracking, educating, and training the higher education community on other important issues related to technology and standards, such as web services and electronic authentication.

On August 4, 2000, in response to recommendations contained in the white paper produced by the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for Electronic Transactions in Higher Education Workgroup, the PESC Board of Directors founded the Standards Forum for Education. XML development and applications were emerging in all industries, but the Workgroup identified an absence of any single organization responsible for developing XML business standards for the postsecondary community. The community embraced the Standards Forum for Education and together worked to develop and produce the first PESC approved standard, the XML Postsecondary Transcript, in July of 2004. Numerous development efforts have since taken place within the Standards Forum for Education and more and more are being proposed from within the community.

PESC has successfully created the environment envisioned in 1997 and now with its largest Membership in its history, continues to serve the needs of the higher education community. As the benefits of standards are realized, the need for more standards increases along with the needs for proper information, education, and training.

## About PESC

Established in 1997 at The National Center for Higher Education, the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) operates as an international 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based, umbrella association headquartered in Washington, D.C. of: Data, Software, Technology Service Providers and Vendors; Schools, Districts, Colleges and Universities; College, University and State/Provincial Systems; Local, State/Provincial and Federal Government Offices; Professional, Commercial and Non-Profit Organizations; Non-Profit Associations and Foundations.

PESC leads the establishment and adoption of trusted, free and open data standards across the education domain by serving as an open standards-development and open standards-setting body (governed by a voluntary, consensus-based model), independently funded by annual membership dues, meetings and sponsorships, enabling PESC to support, publish and maintain PESC Approved Standards and technical information free and without charge. PESC celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2022 having been founded in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C. For more information, please visit [www.pesc.org](http://www.pesc.org).

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<sup>2</sup> In 1998, OMB issued Circular A-119 which provided more specific guidance to Federal agencies on how to participate in standards-setting bodies and the parameters on reporting their activities to OMB. Also in 1998, Section 143 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 was added and required the Secretary of Education and the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of FSA to collaborate and participate in voluntary, consensus-based, standards-setting bodies.