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Contact:

Michael Sessa

PESC Executive Director

202-261-6516

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Academic e-Portfolio Workgroup Launches

John Ittelson and J. Michael Thompson to Lead XML Development Initiative

Washington DC – The Board of Directors of PESC - the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative that will focus on the development of an XML standard for Academic e-Portfolios. John Ittelson, Professor Emeritus at California State University Monterey Bay and Director of Instructional Technologies at the K-20 California Education Technology Collaborative, and J. Michael Thompson, President and CEO of Xap Corporation, are serving as Co-Chairs of this very important and timely initiative.

"An Academic e-Portfolio is to represent an e-Portfolio that incorporates 'Folio Thinking'¹ and that reveals the knowledge and skills attained by a student throughout his or her academic career. It essentially becomes a person's 'e-Transcript' that reveals a much more detailed level of what a student actually knows and can accomplish," states the Letter of Intent submitted to PESC to launch this initiative. "Some of the challenges that come with the future development and efficacy of Academic e-Portfolios as 'e-Transcripts' include the establishment of interoperability standards and data sharing capabilities that would allow today's typically mobile learners – including the growing segment of online learners across the country with more options than ever – to easily take their Academic e-Portfolio with them wherever they happen to enroll and learn."

The official launch of the Academic e-Portfolio Workgroup (APW) takes place 8:30am EDT Thursday April 1, 2010 at the PESC Spring 2010 Data Summit. An open, concurrent session on Academic e-Portfolios is available to all attendees of the Data Summit. Information on how to join the APW will be posted on the PESC website for those interested in joining this Workgroup but not able to attend the Data Summit.

The Academic e-Portfolio Workgroup is one of the many current development initiatives at PESC. Other Workgroups are focused on the development of standards for Academic Progress, Course Inventory, Recruitment and Enrollment, and PDF Transcripts; while the Education Record User Group (ERUG) focuses on maintenance of already PESC approved transcripts, test score, and admissions application standards. PESC Task Forces include Electronic Authentication and Authorization (EA2) and EdUnifySM.

¹ Folio Thinking is a unique teaching approach that is based on supporting students who are creating their own e-Portfolios with opportunities to reflect on the experience through coaching and other techniques, originally proposed by Helen Chen of Stanford University.

For more information on PESC, please visit www.PESC.org.

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.

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