STANDARDS BODIES UNITED

THE OPEN STANDARDS NETWORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

A PROPOSAL BY THE POSTSECONDARY ELECTRONIC STANDARDS COUNCIL
TO ENABLE HARMONIZATION ACROSS EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT &
STREAMLINE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL AND MAINTENANCE OF
OPEN DATA STANDARDS, RESOURCES AND TOOLS

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PESC
MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS. ONE VISION.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While Education and Employment are inherently linked at many levels, new emerging technologies can now enable a closer, harmonious relationship stabilizing gaps in supply/demand channels and easier navigation to employment and overall societal success.

Seamless, harmonious data sharing and processing does not automatically happen. Sustainable frameworks, infrastructures and platforms are necessary to meet that level of demand and support that level of service. At the top of the list in ensuring harmony among all platforms, are the need for open and free, lifelong learning data standards.

In building off of the good will, mapping exercises and broad awareness created by the recent Credential Ecosystem Mapping Team (CEMT) initiated in April 2017 by PESC and Credential Engine, PESC believes in expanding the CEMT to become the "Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning."

Participation in the Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning is available to: open standards bodies on a Voting-Member basis; and, all stakeholders throughout the marketplace, or ecosystem, on a Non-Voting Member basis. The Open Standards Network would promote semantic web standards, develop new lifelong learning data standards, and upgrade existing, useful data standards to Open Standards Network requirements.

PESC functions on a voluntary, market-driven, consensus-based model and we believe data standards, like in other industries, are best set in a marketplace, or ecosystem, with this model. Support and funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) would expedite development of much needed lifelong data standards and equally as important, entrust this responsibility to PESC, true stakeholder and community partner who will ensure fulfillment of this critical mission.

II. INTRODUCING THE "OPEN STANDARDS NETWORK"

The Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning, by including all stakeholders and creating a community marketplace, supports all three critical opportunity areas as identified by OET:

➤ **Lifelong Learning Pathways** – All pathways contain digital data points, yet, as in life, some pathways and their corresponding digital data points are not always direct, or even, or smooth. The Open Standards Network proposes lifelong learning data standards as part of the infrastructure and platform to support and harmonize all pathways and would ensure all data standards and definitions meet Open Standards Network requirements.

➤ **Marketplace for Student Learning** – The Open Standards Network, in targeting the marketplace, or ecosystem, for inclusion in the Network, reinforces the key factors of harmony and interoperability itself, by creating an open and trusted environment. In this environment, competitors collaborate and cooperate in support of the greater common mission. That mission is a healthy, harmonious, open and trusted marketplace in which students, learners, and all stakeholders succeed.

➤ **Emerging Technology** – Emerging Technologies expand our horizons and advance progress in new and innovative ways. Emerging technologies can also be highly disruptive, pulling much needed time, resources and efforts. The Open Standards Network would engage new, emerging technologies, pilots and demonstrations to ensure inclusion, synchronization and integration into the marketplace.

Mission
- To promote free and open data standards for lifelong learning and educate stakeholders on the importance of lifelong learning data standards.
- To coordinate development of free and open data standards for lifelong learning
- To upgrade existing, useful data standards (in other technologies) to Open Standards Network requirements.

Vision
- The Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning envisions a healthy and prosperous marketplace in which students and learners successfully and seamlessly navigate their way across disparate systems and sectors to achieve their goals – all supported by fully automated, real-time processes, platforms and stakeholders that work together to ensure success.

Governance
- PESC and [TBD] to serve as Co-Chairs of The Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning, overseeing all governance and budgetary duties.
- Appointing additional open data standards bodies as Voting Members.
- Appointing users of open data standards (institutions, employers, service providers, vendors, etc.) and other key stakeholders as Non-Voting Members.

Goals & Budget

The goals of The Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning include:

➢ Establishment of The Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning – morph the current CEMT, establish governance, representatives, protocols, principles and rules.

➢ Establishment and support of work groups, committees, meetings and forums to develop and maintain a lifelong leaner record, including management of venues, events, meetings and outputs.

➢ Establishment and support of work groups, committees and forums to develop and maintain a comprehensive learner record, including management of venues, events, meetings and outputs.

➢ Upgrade of existing, useful data standards in other technologies (e.g. PESC Approved Standards in XML) to Open Standards Network requirements.

➢ Educate and promote the value and need of lifelong learning data standards and the importance of participation in the marketplace.

The proposed budget is geared toward establishment of a minimum set of key staff to accelerate The Open Standards Network and then support of ongoing efforts:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
1 FTE Technical Senior	$250,000	$250,000	$250,000	$750,000
1 FTE Technical	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$600,000
1 FTE Program	$175,000	$175,000	$175,000	$525,000
Meeting, Event, Travel (3/year, 2/event + 3 FTE)	$85,000	$85,000	$85,000	$255,000
Meeting, Event, Venue/AV	$75,000	$75,000	$75,000	$225,000
TOTAL	$785,000	$785,000	$785,000	$2,355,000

Conclusion & Team

PESC is committed to the community and marketplace and has a proven reputation of quality and trust. Together we believe we can achieve the vision outlined to establish The Open Standards Network for Lifelong Learning and deliver the following benefits:

- Learner-centric focus to replace costly and inefficient legacy and silo approaches
- Reduced costs of programming, staff, resources, training
- Improved data quality throughout the marketplace
- Faster implementations and smoother integrations
- Establishment and reinforcement of a marketplace community of stakeholders
- Better, more efficient service for students and learners

Open data standards bodies targeted for The Open Standards Network:

- Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC)
- HR Open Standards Consortium (HROS)
- U.S. Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)
- SCHEMA.ORG
- Access 4 Learning (A4L)
- IEEE
- Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL)

The team representing The Open Standards Network under OET guidelines:

- **Liz Dietz,** Vice President Student Strategy & Product Management, Workday
- **Alex Jackl,** President & CEO, Bardic Systems
- **Michael Morris,** Director, Quality Management, EIS-Quality Assurance, ACT
- **Ken Sauer,** Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, Indiana Commission for Higher Education
- **Michael Sessa,** President & CEO, PESC
- **Joellen Shendy,** Associate Vice Provost & Registrar, University of Maryland University College