MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS. ONE VISION.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 26, 2021
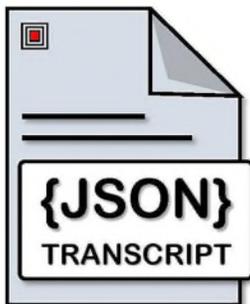Contact:
Jennifer Kim, Membership Services Director
jennifer.kim@pesc.org

JSON TRANSCRIPT STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP LAUNCHES
PESC EXPANDS TECHNOLOGY BASE WITH JSON AND JSON-LD

Washington, D.C. ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce the formation and launch of the JSON Academic Transcript Standards Development Workgroup. The request to form the JSON Transcript Workgroup originated with support from PESC Members: Parchment, AcademyOne, University of Southern California, Bardic Systems, DegreeData, AACRAO, National Student Clearinghouse and Digitary.

These PESC Members intend to work openly and collaboratively with the education community and all stakeholders to develop and submit a candidate standard to be released and published as a PESC Approved Standard. PESC High School and College Transcript Approved Standards are currently available in EDI, PDF and XML technologies. This effort to add a JSON version of the Transcript as a PESC Approved Standard marks PESC's first step toward JSON and JSON-LD, technologies more compatible with web servers, browsers, mobile applications and the internet.

"As the manager over the EDX services for the University of Southern California, it is exciting to be involved in the development of the next generation of transcript data exchange methodologies."
  - Matt Bemis, Associate Registrar, University of Southern California

"With the use of digital credentials growing across the global community, it's crucial to maintain alignments between the PESC Transcript Standards and emerging technologies like JSON & JSON-LD. This effort will combine PESC's strength in building community and success in data standards to map a technical path forward."
  - Jason Weaver, VP, Product, Parchment

"The vision for the Workgroup is to provide the most usable, most implementable, most interoperable version of the High School and College Transcript in JSON technology," states Michael D. Sessa, PESC President & CEO. "PESC Approved Standards for electronic data exchange have served a key role in moving away from paper; and now as we battle COVID-19 and all its consequences, our mission of digital data exchange becomes ever more critical."

The official launch of the Workgroup takes place Wednesday January 27, 2021 at Noon EST. The Workgroup includes representatives from PESC Members, PESC Partners, PESC Sponsors and from signatories and supporters of Data Standards United. Participation in the Workgroup is free and open to all education stakeholders.   Please visit www.pesc.org for more information.

ABOUT THE POSTSECONDARY ELECTRONIC STANDARDS COUNCIL

ESTABLISHED 1997 AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION & HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON DC, PESC is an international, 501 (c)(3) non-profit, community-based, umbrella association of data, software and education technology service providers; schools, districts, colleges and universities; college, university and state and provincial systems; local, state/provincial and federal government agencies; professional, commercial and non-profit organizations; and non-profit associations & foundations.

LEADING THE ESTABLISHMENT & ADOPTION OF TRUSTED, FREE & OPEN STANDARDS ACROSS THE EDUCATION DOMAIN. 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 global interoperability within the Education domain, supported by a trustworthy, inter-connected network built by and between communities of interest in which data flows digitally and automatically from one community, system or network to another and throughout the entire ecosystem when and where needed without compatibility barriers but in a safe, secure, reliable, legal, and efficient manner.

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

PESC IS SPONSORED ANNUALLY by Digitary, National Student Clearinghouse, Parchment Inc., DegreeData and Educational Credential Evaluators. PESC partners include AACRAO, ARUCC, A4L Community, EMREX, EWP, Groningen Declaration Network, HR Open Standards, SHEEO, T3 Innovation Network, and the US Department of Education's Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) Initiative.

PESC IS A PROUD EXHIBITOR at AACRAO's Annual Meeting, ARUCC's Annual Meeting, and the Annual STATS-DC Conference of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the US Department of Education.

PESC IS A PROUD SPONSOR of AIR's Annual Conference and of the Annual California Electronic Transcripts Workshop and CCCApply.

PESC IS A PROUD MEMBER/AFFILIATE/SIGNATORY of AACRAO, of the NCES National Forum on Education Statistics, and of the Groningen Declaration Network.

PESC HAS A STRONG HISTORY that includes AACRAO, SPEEDE, EDI, ANSI, X12, Canada, the US Department of Education and Y2K. Read more at www.PESC.org.

IN FULFILLING ITS NON-PROFIT MISSION, all PESC APPROVED STANDARDS are available to the education community online free of charge at www.PESC.org.

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January 26, 2021

Michael Sessa, President & CEO
Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council
1250 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor
Washington DC 20036

Re: Letter of Intent – JSON Transcript Workgroup

Dear Michael Sessa:

We are pleased to notify PESC that Parchment, AcademyOne, University of Southern California, Bardic Systems, DegreeData, AACRAO, National Student Clearinghouse and Digitary intend to lead open, transparent and collaborative efforts with the education and employment communities through PESC to develop the High School and College Transcripts in JSON technology.

We support the proposed development, submission and consideration of the Transcripts in JSON as PESC Approved Standards, including the exploration of how to enhance the standard to be compatible with other existing and emerging data standards. The proposed standards can be used by organizations, schools, colleges and universities for the exchange of academic data to facilitate the migration, advancement and accomplishments of students throughout their entire educational process. We anticipate that the deliverables will include the proposed JSON schema, Implementation Guide(s) and Instance/Example documentation.

We understand that the preliminary business/use cases include the electronic exchange of JSON transcripts between schools, colleges, universities, districts, state systems and/or service providers. As PESC maintains the PESC Approved Transcript Standards in EDI, PDF, and XML technologies, we believe adding the option of JSON Approved Standards enables those ready to exchange and consume JSON, while allowing those on aligned technologies to not be impacted.

We are pleased to collaborate on this effort with other organizations and initiatives, like PCG and Data Standards United, agreeing to participate as PESC intends to operate this Workgroup as free and open to all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Jason Weaver, VP, Parchment
David Moldoff, CEO & Founder, AcademyOne
W. Matt Bemis, Associate Registrar, University of Southern California
Alex Jackl, Founder & CEO, Bardic Systems
Anne Valentine, CEO, DegreeData
Mike Reilly, Executive Director, AACRAO
Doug Falk, CIO & VP, National Student Clearinghouse
James Murray-Beckman, COO, Digitary