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Electronic Standards Council

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April 20, 2005

Ms. Holly Hyland
Management Analyst, Integration Team
Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA)
U.S. Department of Education
830 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Ms. Hyland:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC), I am very pleased to inform you that FSA is being awarded *Winner* of PESC's 2004 Best Practices Competition! Our Board Review Committee was pleased with your submission on the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community and grateful to you for taking the time to pull together all the necessary documentation.

To ensure you are aware of events and activities, please note the following:

- The official announcement and award will be made by PESC during the opening general session at the 2nd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards on the morning of May 2 immediately following the welcome address. We request that you not disclose receipt of this award (i.e. *please keep it secret*) until the presentation is made. As we discussed, you will be present to receive the award on FSA's behalf.
- As an award winner, you are offered the opportunity to present your submission during a concurrent session at the conference, which is already in place for that purpose.
- A press release will be issued immediately following the conference announcing the winner and your submission will be posted on PESC's website.

Thank you to you and the entire FSA staff for continuing to provide valuable services to the education community, and congratulations!

Best Regards,

Michael Sessa

Michael D. Sessa
Executive Director

cc: PESC Board of Directors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Sessa
PESC Executive Director
202-293-7383

U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid Awarded PESC *Best Practices* for the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community

May 25, 2005 *(Washington DC)* ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) announced the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) Winner of the 2004 PESC Best Practices Competition for its submission, the *XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community*, at the 2nd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards held May 2-4, 2005 in Washington, D.C. The Best Practices Competition, now in its sixth year, is held by PESC to promote innovation and ingenuity in the application of standards for business needs.

"I am very pleased to accept this award for Federal Student Aid," states Holly Hyland, (Management Analyst, Integration Team, FSA, US Department of Education), who accepted the award on behalf of FSA. "Collaboration does work!" she continues.

Holly Hyland, center in the picture to the left, is congratulated by Keith Riccitelli of Sallie Mae and Chair of PESC's Board of Directors and PESC's Executive Director Michael Sessa.

The PESC Board of Directors also awarded the Postsecondary Electronic Transcript Exchange (PETE) submission made by The OCAS Application Services Inc. (OCAS) as First Runner Up. OCAS created a common Ontario Postsecondary Transcript System for the 28 Ontario member Colleges using the EDI standards for education transaction sets. The PETE solution facilitates the electronic exchange of transcripts with the Ontario Universities' Electronic Transcript System (OUETS). All past winners of Best Practices are available at http://www.PESC.org/Events/Best-Practices.asp.

PESC also honored Mark Bolembach of SunGard SCT and Tim Bornholtz of FSA with Distinguished Service Awards for their work and efforts on the *PESC Guidelines for XML Architecture and Data Modeling*. Now part of the overall Policies and Procedures Manual for

PESC's Standards Forum for Education, these guidelines mark a significant milestone for the community as PESC and FSA now share a unified methodology for XML. All past recipients of PESC's Distinguished Service Awards are available at http://www.PESC.org/About/Service-Awards.asp.

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

About the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community

The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a web-based application written in Java running on IBM Websphere 5.1. It uses Jakarta Struts and JSP's for the user presentation. The object relational data binding is Torque, and the database is Oracle 9i located at the Virtual Data Center (VDC). The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community conforms to ebXML Registry and Repository 2.5 specifications. More than the application itself though, the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a story of collaboration of government working in partnership with community based-standard organizations, of building it once and using it many times thus maximizing opportunities for all stakeholders, and of best practices.

Four years ago, several standard organizations gathered together to work with FSA to work on an idea called the Common Record – one schema that streamlined data packet submission between schools and FSA. Over time, the scope of this effort expanded to creating an XML higher education taxonomy. The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a central location where four years worth of collaborative work is stored and available to anyone who is interested in XML higher education meta-data.

The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community was a deliverable from the XML Framework 2.0 Initiative. FSA recognized that internally, an application would be needed to store XML meta-data so that this information could be used by future XML development efforts to encourage standardized and high quality schemas. When it became obvious that the community-based standard organizations would also need a meta-data repository, it seemed a natural step for FSA to share and donate its XML meta-data repository to PESC for community and school use. Owen Ambur, co-chair of the federal XML.gov organization, stated the following about the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community, "FSA's registry has the best, most usable interface I have seen in any registry service yet."

About PESC

Established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a non-profit, community-based, umbrella association of colleges and universities; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; and state and federal government agencies. PESC's mission is to lead the establishment and adoption of data exchange standards in education. The goals of the mission are to enable the improvement of institutional performance and foster collaboration across educational communities in order to lower costs, improve service, and attain system interoperability.

Michael Sessa, Executive Director
Postsecondary Electronics Standards Council
One Dupont Circle
Washington, DC

February 27, 2005

Dear Michael,

Please consider this letter an official submission for the 2005 PESC Best Practices Competition for the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community (XML R&R). I am pleased to submit this letter on behalf of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

The XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community is a web-based application written in Java running on IBM Websphere 5.1. It uses Jakarta Struts and JSPs for the user presentation. The object relational data binding is Torque, and the database is Oracle 9i located at the Virtual Data Center (VDC). The XML R&R conforms to ebXML Registry and Repository 2.5 specifications.

However, more than the application itself, the story of the XML Registry and Repository is a story of collaboration

- of government working in partnership with community based-standard organizations.
- of building it once and using it many times – thus maximizing opportunities for all stakeholders.
- of best practices.

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I believe that we built a quality product. In fact, Owen Ambur, co-chair of the federal XML.gov organization stated the following about the XML R&R, "FSA's registry has the best, most usable interface I have seen in any registry service yet." I believe that working collaboratively with the community was the right way to implement XML at FSA. And I

believe that this effort and work is an example of best practices. For these reasons, I am proud to submit the XML R&R to PESC for your 2005 Best Practices Competition.

Please contact me if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Holly A. Hyland
Management Analyst
Federal Student Aid
830 First Street NE
Washington DC

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202.377.3710 (work)