



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE
AWARDED 1ST PLACE IN PESC BEST PRACTICES FOR 2012**

ELECTION OF OCAS' WILLIAM MCKEE TO PESC BOARD SIGNIFIES CANADIAN COMMITMENT

(Washington, D.C.) - The Board of Directors of PESC is pleased to announce the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) as 1st Place Winners of PESC's Annual Best Practices Competition.



OCAS leaders attended the PESC Spring 2013 Data Summit in San Diego on May 1, 2013 and were honored with PESC's Best Practices Award.

Pictured from left to right:

William McKee, Director of Operations

Greg Hughes, Chief Executive Officer

Barry Billing, Business Systems Analyst

The award is based on the innovative and automated method OCAS secures Ontario High School transcripts for colleges. OCAS can now reach into the record systems of *enabled* high schools through a secure web service to retrieve an applicant's high school record in real-time without any intervention from the school. The high school transcript appears within the online application-to-college within seconds of the applicant's request. In addition, OCAS has given high schools and school boards flexibility in how they integrate with the transcript exchange as a way to encourage more users, and every trading partner signs a formal Service Level Agreement which sets performance standards for both OCAS and the schools and boards using the system.

"We are grateful to many people for their help in developing this new, and now award-winning system, including the team at OCAS, secondary school student information system partners like SRB Education Solutions, OCAS technology partners Navantis and Xylotek, and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board," states Greg Hughes, OCAS CEO.

At the same time, members elected William McKee to the PESC Board of Directors who will serve as the first Canadian member on the PESC Board. Mr. McKee has been active in PESC for several years, was instrumental in launching the Canadian PESC User Group and currently serves as its Chair. Under Mr. McKee's leadership and with Vice Chair Leisa Wellsman of Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC), the entire User Group is focusing on development of a Canadian Transcript Exchange Network.

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The Canadian PESC User Group participants include representatives from ApplyAlberta, Association of Registrars of Colleges and Universities of Canada (ARUCC), BCcampus, Ellucian, Maplewood Computing, McGill University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Ontario College Application Service (OCAS), Ontario Colleges, Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), Ontario Ministry of Training for Colleges and Universities (MTCU), Royal Roads University, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, SRB Education Solutions, Statistics Canada, Trevlac Computer Services, Universite de Moncton, University of British Columbia, University of Lethbridge, University of Manitoba, University of Prince Edward Island, University of Regina, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier University and York University.

The User Group is also conducting outreach to their respective membership organizations and other stakeholders such as The Canadian University Council of Chief Information Officers (CUCCIO). The User Group meets monthly by Web Ex and conference call and meets in person during PESC's Spring and Fall Data Summits.

For more information about PESC and the Canadian PESC User Group, please visit <http://www.PESC.org>. For questions or concerns about PESC and/or about PESC events and activities, please contact Jennifer Kim, PESC's Membership Services Director, at 202.261.6514 or jennifer.kim@pesc.org.

ABOUT PESC

Established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C., PESC is a non-profit, community-based, 501 (c)(3) umbrella association of data, software and service providers; local, state and federal government agencies; colleges and universities; college and university systems; professional, commercial and non-profit organizations; and, national and international non-profit associations and foundations. 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 called *EdUnify* 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. To achieve its mission and vision, PESC organizes committees, activities and events to: accelerate performance and service, reduce cost, lead collaborative development, set and maintain common data standards, promote best practices, link public and private sectors, and serve as data experts.

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 FERPA and all local, state, federal and international rules on privacy and security as applicable. For more information, see www.PESC.org.

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