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Pearson Acquires the National Transcript Center

Acquisition Creates Most Comprehensive Student Record Exchange Solution in PK-12 and Postsecondary Education, Expands Capability to Deliver Essential Elements of State Longitudinal Data Systems

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - April 9, 2009 - [Pearson](#) today announced the company has completed its acquisition of the [National Transcript Center](#) (NTC), the largest national e-transcript and student record exchange provider. NTC's comprehensive solution for securely exchanging electronic student transcripts and student records enhances Pearson's ability to deliver integrated solutions to increase automation, digital workflow, and data quality in PK-20 education - enabling the development of longitudinal data systems to improve student success - a key element of President Obama's education reform plan.

NTC will become part of [Edustructures](#), a business unit within the [Assessment and Information group of Pearson](#). Edustructures is the leading provider of SIF[®] integration solutions for the education market. Deeper integration of NTC into Edustructures' [SIF-enabled solutions](#) for state level data management - including the SIFWorks[®] Vertical Reporting Framework[®], Student Locator Framework[™], and eTranscript Framework[®] - provides a fully SIF-automated, end-to-end data integration and transcript solution. The solution is ideal for states seeking to utilize the \$250 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus support package targeted to assist state education agencies in deploying successful longitudinal data systems, particularly those projects designed to bridge the PK-12 and Postsecondary sectors.

"The student record and transcript is the holy grail of longitudinal education data," said Steve Curtis, president of Edustructures. "Electronic transcripts are the link between PK-12 and Postsecondary data systems. Transcripts are the set of data that everyone already knows must be accurate, complete, and safeguarded. Edustructures and NTC have a shared vision for the important role of record/transcript exchange in a statewide data system. This acquisition will allow us to more effectively meet the growing challenges states and districts face as they seek to improve systems, better utilize existing resources, and ultimately satisfy the demands of all their constituents."

(more)

Edustructures and NTC have previously worked together, successfully providing statewide SIF-based transcript solutions for projects in states including Virginia and Wyoming, and Edustructures will enhance NTC's solution to more tightly integrate with current and future solution offerings serving PK-12 and higher education markets. NTC's product line will continue to be available in a variety of national data standards or client-specific data models, including statewide record/transcript contracts with California, Texas, West Virginia, and Colorado.

Pearson acquired NTC from its parent company ESP Solutions Group, based in Austin, Texas. ESP Solutions Group is not included in the transaction.

About Pearson

Pearson (NYSE:PSO), the global leader in education and education technology, reaches and engages today's digital natives with effective and personalized learning, as well as dedicated professional development for their teachers. This commitment is demonstrated in the company's investment in innovative print and digital education materials for preK through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher professional development, career certification programs, and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. The company's respected brands include Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, PEMSolutions, Stanford 10, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, SuccessMaker, and many others. Pearson's comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that success is within reach of every student at every level of education. Pearson's commitment to education for all is supported by the global philanthropic initiatives of the Pearson Foundation. Pearson's other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group. For more information, go to www.pearson.com.

About Edustructures

Edustructures, a Pearson company (NYSE: PSO), is the recognized leader in SIF integration solutions for the education market, providing secure interoperability between disparate software applications for improved educational business processes, data accuracy and reliability, staff efficiency and cost reduction. Through its SIFWorks[®] integration platform, comprehensive professional services, and business relationships with technology providers and educators, Edustructures connects the systems that power education. For more information about Edustructures, please visit www.edustructures.com.

About National Transcript Center

National Transcript Center was established to improve the efficiency, reliability, cost, and security of academic transcript exchange for PK-12 schools, state education agencies, colleges and universities, and co-academic organizations. The company's Web-based solutions offer a simple and quick way for institutions to send, receive, manage, track, and import electronic transcripts and student records in the data format they prefer. National Transcript Center is the largest electronic transcript provider in the world, serving more than 15,000 institutions representing 8.5 million students. Based in Austin, Texas, National Transcript Center offers a highly secure and highly scalable trading network that provides privacy and identity protection that far exceeds historical offerings. For more information on National Transcript Center, visit www.transcriptcenter.com.

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