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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Forebay Aquatic Center is Awarded “Take ‘Em Boating” Grant
from the National Safe Boating Council**

Manassas, VA (April 4, 2008) – The Associate Students, CSU Chico Forebay Aquatic Center has been awarded the third annual National Safe Boating Council “Take ‘Em Boating” Grant for their program “Boating & Environmental Education Day”. This one day program teaches school students ages 8 to 17 safe and responsible boating and environmental awareness through hands-on instruction. Students learn about different types of boats, uses, and safety precautions in a classroom setting and can then take these skills and apply them on the water, creating a positive outdoor recreation experience for our youth. In addition, the Aquatic Center focuses on environmental issues that affect marine wildlife and water flow to make the students aware of their surroundings and impact on the environment. This program encourages students to become lifelong boaters through education, instruction and appreciation of the water and the environment.

The National Safe Boating Council “Take ‘Em Boating” grant was developed to promote and develop interest in boating for future generations. Funded by the Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) Foundation on behalf of the former employees of the OMC, the “Take ‘Em Boating” grant seeks to continue their legacy and interest in boating safety, environmental awareness, and the marine industry.

“The ‘Take ‘Em Boating’ Grant is an excellent recognition program that we hope will encourage organizations to develop creative and innovative programs to get kids into boats” said NSBC Executive Director Virgil Chambers. “It’s important to demonstrate to our youth the benefits of getting out on the water in boats, showing kids that exercise and fresh air is a great life style.”

The \$5,000 is awarded annually to the selected youth program that gets kids ages 6-18 safely into boating while promoting the future of the marine industry through environmental education, safety awareness and boating enjoyment. The “Take ‘Em Boating” Grant was established by the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The NSBC is comprised of over 350 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.