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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Keeping Kids Afloat” is Awarded 1st Annual “Take Em’ Boating” Grant from the National Safe Boating Council

Manassas, VA (May 22, 2006) – The Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies, Perseus House Charter School of Excellence has been awarded the first annual National Safe Boating Council Take Em’ Boating” Grant for their program “Keeping Kids Afloat’. Located in Erie, Pennsylvania, this program provides a unique hands on boat building, sailing and environmental learning experience for over 11,000 area youth. Students become involved in designing and building a small craft, reinforcing skills such as math concepts, interpreting plans and working as a team. The kids then take these boats on the bay and learn about basic boating and safety skills while enjoying and learning about being on the water. This grant will help to fund this program that provides a diverse group of students with an educational environment that teaches them both individual and group skills with hands on learning opportunities.

The National Safe Boating Council “Take Em’ Boating” grant was developed to promote and develop interest in boating for future generations. Funded by the OMC Foundation on behalf of the former employees of the Outboard Marine Corporation 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 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 show 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 \$5000 grant 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 333 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.