



McDONOUGH MARINE SERVICE

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February 27, 2006

The Students of Catharine H. Colwell
Mainland High School
125 South Clyde Morris Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Re: 2005-2006 Internet Science and Technology Fair

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the course of the past two months, I have been working with a group of students and their technical advisor at the Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Florida, on a project for the Internet Science and Technology Fair. Throughout the course of our communications, I have been extremely impressed with the development of the students' knowledge and their focus on the important aspects of their topic. As each set of questions arrived for my consideration, they built on their previous ones in an intelligent, logical manner. The progress they have made in developing their project was very impressive.

The students spent many sessions considering the intrinsic problems associated with marine operations that ultimately would affect the design of their centerboard product. Shallow draft towing operations have been conducted in much the same fashion for many years with most of the control of the tow of barges resting with the towboat and the captain's experience. The centerboard design is innovative in its approach to introduce another possible mechanism to help in creating a safer means of controlling the tow.

The research conducted by the students into the safety statistics of the towing industry and the practicality of the construction of the centerboard which led them to carbon fiber, was an intricate process. It has become apparent that the students went through a learning curve that eventually resulted in a true team of researchers to bring this project to completion. This will undoubtedly help them later in their careers as they are faced with similar opportunities requiring a teamwork approach in the business world.

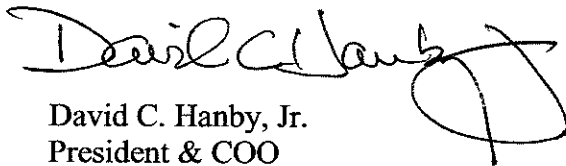
I applaud the support Ms. Colwell, the school and the University of Central Florida are providing to the students in this program. It is encouraging to see programs that help push students to expand their usual range of school involvement to higher levels from which they will benefit in the future. This project has provided a way for people outside of the marine industry to

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develop an understanding of how bulk materials are moved around our country and the hazards associated with our industry. Fortunately, when viewed on a ton of cargos moved basis, the marine industry provides one of the safest modes of transporting goods that exists, in addition to being one of the most environmentally friendly. The design these student have come up with is an interesting approach to a control problem for empty barges. More development will be necessary to prove the economic feasibility of such a product, including the transportability from tow to tow that might help in that regard. The next step would probably involve development of a prototype to test the effectiveness of the centerboard.

I am very impressed with the report that has been created by the team members and am proud to have been invited to provide some measure of assistance to help in their efforts. The processes they have been through, from selecting a project, researching the various components and refining the data has been a very instructive educational tool that they should be able to use as they develop their professional lives.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Hanby, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David C. Hanby, Jr.
President & COO

DCH/paf