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MARINE INDUSTRY LEADER JOE CHARLES ISSUES \$25,000 CHALLENGE
Donation match to benefit Broward College Marine Technology Center of Excellence

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., March 1, 2010 – Joe Charles is issuing a challenge to the south Florida marine industry and recreational boaters alike- for every dollar donated to the Broward College Marine Technology Center of Excellence capital program, he will match it up to \$25,000. Charles is hoping to inspire other marine enthusiasts with his challenge.

A national marine industry leader and president of Charles Industries, Joe Charles is deeply committed to the marine industry and marine education. After touring the Marine Center facility, meeting instructors and students and learning about the curriculum, he was compelled to chair the Marine Center’s capital program. In 2009, Charles personally contributed \$50,000 and raised more than \$500,000 in equipment and capital donations from the marine industry.

“By investing in Broward College’s Marine Technology Center of Excellence, you are purchasing an insurance policy that assures future skilled technicians capable of professionally repairing and maintaining your vessel,” said Charles. “I was surprised to learn that a program like the one offered at Broward College was not already well established in an area like south Florida. The College has the distinction of being the first in Florida to offer a two-year accredited degree in marine engineering and seamanship.”

Chosen by American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) as one of seven national ABYC marine league schools, Broward College’s Marine Technology Center is the only school in the southeast region offering ABYC certification. With the technological advancement in marine engines and equipment and to ensure warranty coverage, manufacturers are increasingly specifying that repair and maintenance be performed exclusively by ABYC-certified technicians.

Broward College’s Marine Technology Center of Excellence is based in Miramar and graduated its first class in 2009. The program is designed to provide boat/yacht manufacturers, dealers and boatyards with well-educated and skilled marine technicians. In addition to requisite English and mathematics classes, students receive hands-on training, earn 11 standing certifications and complete an internship at a local boatyard prior to graduation. Areas of certification include plumbing, electrical, steering, propulsion, exhaust and more. The Marine Technology Center also offers continuing education courses for experienced technicians who want to keep their certifications current.

“ABYC sets the safety standards for boat and yacht manufacturers internationally,” continued Charles. “A contribution to the Broward College Marine Technology Center ensures that there will be ABYC certified technicians capable of servicing your current boat as well building your next boat.”

About the Broward College Foundation The mission of the Broward College Foundation is to transform lives through education by providing community awareness, advocacy and financial support to Broward College. The Broward College Foundation awards more than \$2 million in scholarships annually to Broward College students and supports academic programs and awards for outstanding faculty. While the State of Florida funds approximately 50 percent of Broward College's operating budget, the balance must be raised from individuals, corporations and institutions. Led by its Board of Directors, the foundation raises funds, conducts programs and practices stewardship that increases the effectiveness of the college in meeting community, student, faculty and staff needs. More information about the Broward College Foundation is available at www.broward.edu/foundation.

About Charles Industries, Ltd. 2010 marks Charles Industries' 42nd year as a privately held, diversified manufacturing and technology company serving telecommunications, CATV, marine and industrial markets. Founded in 1968, the company is ISO 9001:2008 and TL 9000 registered and headquartered in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, with four additional U.S.-based manufacturing centers. Charles Marine & Industrial Group is a provider of high quality, innovative AC and DC electrical products, including battery chargers, inverters, isolation and boosting transformers, ship-to-shore cable products, onboard communications systems and industrial transformers. Charles products are used by OEMs and distributed by retailers worldwide. More information about Charles Industries is available at www.charlesindustries.com.

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