Sustainability Fund Allocation Committee (SFAC) Approves Proposals

CHICO, Calif. – The Sustainability Fund Allocation Committee approved thirteen student-driven sustainability project proposals in during the Spring 2011 funding cycle – awarding $71,528 to fourteen student-driven projects.

Approved projects and a brief overview of each are listed below:

- **Adventure Outings Worm Bin** – A worm bin will be purchased to enable the program to compost food waste after trips. The worm bin for composting will also serve as an educational opportunity for Adventure Outings participants to learn more about alternative forms of waste management.

- **Adventure Outings Yurt** – The Adventure Outings Yurt located in Butte Meadows will be rebuilt after falling to disrepair. The yurt will also get an EPA-rated wood stove, eco-friendly insulation, and “leave no trace” signage for hikers.

- **Ceramic Water Filter Project** – Ceramic water filters will be created, promoted and distributed throughout the campus and eventually shared with the community of Tela, Honduras. The Sustainable Engineering and Environmental Health for Development (SEEHD) is working toward partnering with developing communities abroad to bring sustainable aid in the form of waste water treatment, solid waste management, health education and potable water filtration.

- **California State Sustainability Coalition Convergence** – CSU, Chico will host a CSSC Convergence in Fall 2011 consisting of a weekend filled with student- and alumni-led workshops focusing on a range of issues related to sustainability, a current event panel, a keynote speaker and organized system-wide caucuses for UC, CSU, Community Colleges, and high school students.

- **Free Ride/Student Shuttle** - Awarded funds to ensure and maintain the existing year-round, free ride transit service on the B-Line for CSU, Chico students for the 2011-2012 school year.

- **Gateway Garden** - An educational community garden will be created at CSU, Chico’s Gateway Science Museum. The garden will utilize volunteers and is designed to minimize the use of water, energy and waste generation.

- **Habitat for Humanity “Student Build”** - In partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Butte County (HFBHC) CSU, Chico’s student chapter will build a LEED-Gold certified home using student labor in a low-income residential area in Chico. Funds awarded will contribute a portion of building supplies needed for this home.
• **Turtle Habitat Research and Outdoor Education** – In collaboration with the CSU Chico Outdoor Classroom program, Chico State students will work with grade school students to monitor and research turtle populations at the Ecological Reserves as well as the Water Treatment Plant.

• **“Let Their Voices Be Heard” Mural** – Mexican muralist and activist Gustavo Chavez Pavon will develop, design and complete a mural reflecting the concept of bio-diversity and raising awareness of the complex reciprocal relationship between the diverse biological ecosystems and multitudinous human cultures and languages. Funds awarded will cover mural supplies. Other departments and organizations will be involved in raising additional funds and coordinating the project.

• **Liquid Cooled Solar Panel via Absorptive Refrigeration** – An engineering research project that seeks to prove the relationship between heat and efficiency in solar cells, and to increase the efficiency of a standard silicon solar cell.

• **This Way to Sustainability Conference Interns** – Funds will provide two CSU, Chico students with a paid academic internship for facilitating the organization of the 7th annual This Way to Sustainability Conference, scheduled to take place next year in March 2012.

• **Sustainable Kitchen at Blue Oak Charter School** – During the after school program at Blue Oak Charter school, a weekly lesson in food production to a second grade class discussing nutrition, sampling organic fruits and vegetables from a local CSA, and preparing healthy meals using seasonal and locally produced food.

• **Organic Vegetable Project Infrastructure Upgrades** – The Organic Vegetable Project (OVP) infrastructure improvements will enable the OVP to gain efficiency and reliability providing year-round produce in addition to save labor costs on watering and provide much needed shade for harvested vegetable, seedling flats, and worker comfort during in-field processing. Improvements include greenhouse irrigation upgrade, High Tunnel Season Extender and a production area and washing station.

Approval of one additional project, the Closed Loop Algae Biodiesel for Campus Facilities is still pending and will be decided at SFAC’s final meeting in May.

Starting in 2006, the AS Sustainability Fund was created when students voted to fund the creation of the AS Sustainability Program and a fund for student-driven sustainability projects. Approximately $80,000 in funds are available annually for student sustainability projects. The Sustainability Fund Allocation Committee is in charge of allocating funds to projects each semester.

For more information, contact Robyn DiFalco, AS Sustainability Coordinator at 898-6677.

###