



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Big Lots wins national communications awards

COLUMBUS, OH (Jan. 9, 2006) — Big Lots took top honors in the 2005 Magellan Awards, one of the nation's most popular communications campaign competitions. Sponsored by the League of American Communications Professionals, this year's competition drew a record number of entries from a broad range of industries and organizations.

Entries were judged along several criteria, including key messaging, clarity of communication goals, target audience definition, execution, and effectiveness. Companies with the five highest scores within their class took the platinum, gold, silver, bronze, and honors awards respectively.

In it's competition class (Fortune 500 - \$1+ billion) Big Lots swept the Employee Communication category with four awards: Silver for *The GET REAL Program, stores and distribution centers*; Bronze for *Shrink Rap*, a quarterly loss prevention discussion guide; Honors for *Fishman's Line*, a CEO communication; and Honors for *The GUIDE*, the company's associate orientation publication. Big Lots was also recognized on LACP's list of Top 50 Communications Campaigns of 2005.

Other winners for employee communications in this competition class included American Airlines (Platinum), Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (Gold); Exxon, Lockheed Martin, and Carlson Wagonlit Travel (other Bronze winners); and Vossloh (another Honors award winner).

The League of American Communications Professionals is an organization dedicated to supporting and recognizing excellence in professional communications. "Hundreds of entries were submitted by the nation's leading companies, so competition was exceptionally tough," said Tyson Heyn, LACP Principal. "Winners in this year's competition demonstrated a laser focus on communications grounded in creativity and passion."

To see a complete list of winners, visit www.lacp.com/2005magellan.

###

Big Lots, Inc. (NYSE: BLI) is a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. As the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, Big Lots operates more than 1,400 retail stores in 47 states. Five regional closeout distribution centers ranging in size from 1 million to 3 million square feet and two furniture distribution centers provide the company's stores with brand-name products from more than 3,000 manufacturers. Big Lots offers merchandise on average at 20 to 40 percent below most discount retailers and up to 70 percent below conventional retailers. Founded in

1967, the company employs more than 45,000 associates across the U.S. Big Lots offers consumers a unique shopping experience and wide range of bargain-priced merchandise, including brand-name closeouts, one-of-a-kind deals, seasonal products, consumables, furniture, housewares, toys, and gifts. For more information, visit www.biglots.com.