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TWENTY-FOUR FINALISTS HEAD TO LEGOLAND® CALIFORNIA **TO COMPETE FOR OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME** ***National Model Builder Search tour ends with big finale on May 23***

CARLSBAD, Calif. (May 10, 2006) – The seven-city search for the newest member of the prestigious Model Builder team at LEGOLAND® California is down to just 24 talented finalists. Judged on their creativity, ability to build in three dimensions and use of the various LEGO® bricks, these applicants have been selected from more than 250 applicants nationwide. Twenty-four men and women will compete for their dream job at the ultimate build-off event on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at LEGOLAND. Only one will be selected to join the current team of five that design, build and maintain the more than 15,000 LEGO models at the family theme park in Carlsbad, California.

The finalists come from various backgrounds. The three women and 21 men come from 23 different cities in 12 states across the country. They represent graphic designers, teachers, tattoo artists, electricians, cartoonists, students and congressional aides. Their ages range from 21 to 46. Some say they have been building with LEGO since birth, while others have just recently discovered a flair for constructing models. The one thing they have in common, is their passion for building with LEGO.

On May 23, this diverse group gets just two hours and a pre-determined number of LEGO bricks to create an impressive 3-D LEGO model in a theme designated by LEGOLAND California's Model Shop Manager, Pat DeMaria. They will face off in front of the Skipper School attraction right next door to the construction of Pirate Shores, the new area of the Park featuring four new water-based attractions.

"Holding the final build-off in view of Pirate Shores is ideal," says DeMaria. "The main reason for our national search is because of the increased work load from the installation of more than 150 LEGO pirate-themed models being installed for Pirate Shores which opens June 21. The addition of this new area requires talented individuals to build the fantastic LEGO models that our guests enjoy."

LEGOLAND California hosts the finalists for three nights at the Grand Pacific Palisades Resort overlooking the Carlsbad Flower Fields just across the street from the Park. The final build-off event begins with a reception for all finalists on Sunday, May 21. At that time, the eager hopefuls will learn the theme for the ultimate build-off. On Monday, May 22, Park officials will interview the candidates and evaluate their building skills through a series of hands-on assessments. The best qualified candidate will receive the job offer on the spot at a ceremony immediately taking place after the building event on Tuesday, May 23. LEGOLAND representatives and a representative from The Art Institutes judge each candidate on creativity, strategy, ability to build a three-dimensional model and their calmness under pressure. The Art Institutes, a system of 32 education institutions across North America, hosted the competitions in five cities of the seven-city tour.

There are a mere 20 Model Builders at all four LEGOLAND Parks. Five of them work at LEGOLAND California. Throughout the 128-acre family theme park, the ingenuity of the Model Builders can be seen at every turn. Using more than 30-million LEGO bricks, their projects have ranged from an 1,100-pound Brachiosaurus that peers down at guests in Dino Island, to a pumpkin no bigger than a child's fingernail. For more information on the Model Builder Search and to learn more about the finalists, visit www.LEGOLANDModelBuilder.com.

LEGOLAND® California is a 128-acre interactive theme park dedicated to families with children between the ages of two and 12. Just like with LEGO® play materials, kids are the ones who create the action at the Park. They drive, pedal, squirt, climb, jump, stomp, slide, steer, pull, click, push, gallop, laugh, build and program their way through more than 50 rides, shows and attractions. There are three other LEGOLAND Parks in the world – LEGOLAND Billund in Denmark, LEGOLAND Windsor outside of London and LEGOLAND Deutschland near Günzburg, Germany. The LEGOLAND theme parks are a part of Merlin Entertainments Group. For the most current information, log on to www.LEGOLAND.com or call (760) 918-LEGO.

The Art Institutes system of 32 education institutions located throughout North America, provides an important source of design, media arts, fashion and culinary arts professionals. The parent company of The Art Institutes, Education Management Corporation (www.edmc.com) is among the largest providers of private post-secondary education in North America, based on student enrollment and revenue. Student enrollment exceeded 72,000 as of fall 2005. EDMC has 72 primary campus locations in 24 states and two Canadian provinces. EDMC's education institutions offer a broad range of academic programs concentrated in the media arts, design, fashion, culinary arts, behavioral sciences, health sciences, education, information technology and business fields, culminating in the award of associates through doctoral degrees. EDMC has provided career-oriented education for more than 40 years. For more information visit The Art Institutes website at www.artinstitutes.edu/legoland.