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For Immediate Release:

### **2005 ABL-CEO Awards Luncheon Honors Business Leaders**

The Atlanta Business League, the oldest business development and advocacy organization for African American business owners, announced the 2005 CEO honorees at the 27th Annual Chief Executive Officer Appreciation Luncheon, held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, 12:00 noon at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel.

The CEO Awards Luncheon is one of the Atlanta Business League's most renowned events, honoring the visionary and influential leadership of Atlanta's best and brightest business and community Leaders. These outstanding honorees were recognized for giving their time, energy and resources to improve the quality of minority businesses within the city of Atlanta.

The Chair of the 27th Annual Chief Executive Officer Appreciation Luncheon was Steve Smith, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. and co-chaired by Tad Hutcheson, Director of Marketing of AirTran.

This year's award categories and honorees included:

#### **Chief Executive Officer of the Year- David M. Ratcliffe, Chairman & CEO, Southern Company**

The CEO of the Year Award is the most distinguished award presented by the ABL; it recognizes the true measure of a CEO's success-commitment and fairness to people- while maximizing shareholder profits.

#### **Corporation for the Year- Atlanta Life Financial Group**

The Corporation of the Year recognizes an outstanding business that has reached a recognizable and unique milestone in business, evidenced by financial success and exceptional community involvement.

#### **Trail Blazer Award- Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, President & CEO, Grady Health System**

The Trail Blazer Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated pioneering attributes in providing opportunities for Minority Business Enterprise and the minority community at large; has risen to the top in his/her profession; and has made an impression on the Atlanta community through business and civic leadership.

#### **ABL Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Oscar L. Harris, Founder & CEO, Turner Associates/Architects & Planners, Inc.**

The ABL Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding minority business owner who is a proven leader in his/her respective industry, recognized by financial success and community service. Business savvy and tenacity are key components of this entrepreneur's success.

**Distinguished Service Award- Dr. Carl V. Patton, President, Georgia State University**

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has distinguished him/herself as both a community and civic leader in Atlanta and throughout the nation.

**Visions of Excellence- Renee Lewis Glover, President & CEO, Atlanta Housing Authority**

The Visions of Excellence Award recognizes an individual within our community who is committed to a vision for Atlanta and surrounding communities. It is vision of harmony, safety and is responsive to the needs of all citizens with fair and just economic play.

**League Leadership Award- Daryll H. Griffin, President, Accolades**

The League Leadership Award is the ultimate badge of honor for an Atlanta Business member. This award recognizes the ABL volunteer who continuously makes significant contributions to the mission and goals of the League.