

NEWS

ConventionSouth Magazine,
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MSU Riley Center Receives *ConventionSouth* Magazine's Prestigious Annual Readers' Choice Award

MSU Riley Center in Meridian, Mississippi was presented with *ConventionSouth* magazine's annual Readers' Choice Award for 2009. *ConventionSouth* has been the recognized leader in covering the South's meetings industry for the last 26 years.

After more than a decade of recognizing some of the most talented meeting professionals in the nation through its annual "Meeting Professionals To Watch" designation, *ConventionSouth* editors asked meeting professionals to name the convention and visitors bureaus (CVBs), convention centers, conference centers, hotels, resorts and other meeting sites that they believe display exemplary creativity and professionalism to groups.

More than 18,000 readers were asked to cast their votes for the Readers' Choice Awards, and only the top vote getters out of approximately 2,000 meeting sites and CVBs received this recognition. Readers' comments ranged from the very simple to the very detailed, with some readers even bestowing accolades to particularly outstanding staff members.

"The value in receiving this recognition is that it comes from the United States' top meeting professionals who book events in the South. These planners demand the highest level of customer service and quality facilities, and they have determined that the recipients of *ConventionSouth*'s Readers' Choice Awards do indeed display the commitment to professionalism, creativity, excellence and outstanding customer service they require," said *ConventionSouth* Publisher J. Talty O'Connor. "It is an honor to announce that Mississippi State University Riley Center was selected by these planners as one of the best in the South."

"We are of course very pleased to be recognized with this prestigious honor just two and a half years after opening our doors. It is a testament to the hard work of our conference staff, who strives to provide a optimal customer service experience in what is an incredibly beautiful and multi-functional facility," said Dennis Sankovich, executive director of the MSU Riley Center.

Distributed nationally, *ConventionSouth*, a publication of Covey Communications Corp., is read by more than 18,000 meeting professionals.

Covey Communications Corp. has been a leader in publishing nationally and internationally circulated market-specific magazines for more than two decades. Among its other magazines are *SportsEvents*, *Skater's Edge Sourcebook*, *Condo Owner* and *Crossties*. Covey Communications Corp. is based in Gulf Shores, Ala., with additional offices located in Tampa, Fla., and Waco, Texas.

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