



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM

ALTHEMESE P. BARNES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

419 EAST JEFFERSON STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

PHONE: (850) 681-7881
FAX: (850) 681-7000

STAFF@RILEYMUSEUM.ORG
WWW.RILEYMUSEUM.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Issac Morgan
Communications Coordinator
Mobile: (850) 491-3202
imorgan@rileymuseum.org

Founding and Executive Director of the Riley Museum receives national tourism award

Althemese Barnes, founding director of the John Riley Center/Museum, recently received the Twelfth Annual APEX Distinguished Service Award from the Black Meetings and Tourism Magazine for her numerous years of unstinting service to the travel industry and outstanding contributions to the community. During the 2012 Travel Professionals of Color (TPOC) 10th Annual Conference, held at the Double Tree hotel in Denver, Colo., Mrs. Barnes proudly accepted her glass trophy in honor of her positive impact on heritage tourism and added a few remarks expressing her appreciation for the distinguished award in front of hundreds.

“I was surprised and honored to receive this prestigious award,” said Mrs. Barnes. “Receiving it at the national conference of The Travel Professionals of Color, with 300 plus in attendance, means that the Riley Museum and Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network are now known by many more individuals. This award is a tribute to our and my work in Tallahassee, Leon County and State of Florida. Thanks to BM&T for the recognition.”

According to TPOC, an award recipient must have a proven track record of at least two years; represent a national level of prominence and provide long-term benefits for the travel industry and the African-American market segment.

Travel Professionals of Color is an international organization that promotes education, networking and support of minority travel professionals. This organization provides quality training to help travel specialists effectively reach the multicultural minority travel community. Publishing since 1994, the Black Meetings and Tourism is a 9th year media sponsor for the TPOC Annual Conference.

TOPC hosts an annual conference in Denver for minority travel professionals to network with industry leaders and provides comprehensive training in the strategic marketing of travel businesses. The three day event consists of activities and workshops designed to create awareness within the travel community of the professional services offered by qualified TPOC agents.

The John G. Riley Center/Museum of African American History & Culture is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to discover, archive and illuminate the blended interrelationship of African

American, Native American and European history and preserve African American landmarks and legacies throughout the State of Florida as an enduring public resource through tourism and education.

Althemese Barnes is credited with producing the Florida Black Heritage Trail guide in partnership with Visit Florida and the Florida Department of State. In 2001, Mrs. Barnes assembled the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network, which serves as an informational and technical assistance resource in response to a growing interest in African American preservation.

For more information about the John Riley Center/Museum please contact a staff member at 850-681-7881 or by email at info@rileymuseum.org.

###