

## **THE RILEY FOUNDATION AND MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCE THE RILEY NEXT STEP SCHOLARSHIP**

The Riley Foundation and Mississippi State University-Meridian are pleased to announce the Riley Next Step Scholarship Program. The program is designed to recognize students who have excelled at the community-college or junior-college level and want to pursue higher-education opportunities at MSU-Meridian. The recipients of this scholarship will be known as "Riley Scholars" and will receive full tuition to Mississippi State University-Meridian for two years (four semesters, fall and spring).

This scholarship is made possible through grants from The Riley Foundation and other generous benefactors. Becky Farley, executive director of The Riley Foundation, said, "The Riley Foundation is proud to partner with Mississippi State University to offer this great opportunity for students attending MSU-Meridian, as education is vital for the growth of our community."

Ranked by Forbes magazine as one of the "Top 20 Best College Buys" nationwide, Mississippi State University offers a high-quality learning experience in an encouraging and supportive atmosphere.

Dr. Jack Tucci, Dean and Executive Director for MSU-Meridian, says, "At Mississippi State University, we want students to dream big and to follow through on those dreams with us. With friends of the University such as The Riley Foundation and its grant, we can help turn those dreams into reality by providing an education recognized nationally. Those recognitions come in the form of accreditation by all of the highest accrediting boards for each degree program we offer. It is incredible that during the tough economic times that we are experiencing, we can make such a lasting impact on the future by providing a high-quality educational experience AND at almost no cost for students with high academic achievement!"

Consideration for this competitive scholarship program will be given to students transferring for the fall 2010 semester from East Mississippi Community College, East Central Community College, Jones County Junior College and Meridian Community College. Other scholarship criteria are: admission to MSU-Meridian and a completed scholarship resumé; completion of at least 48 hours of transferable community-college or junior-college courses applicable to a bachelor's degree at MSU-Meridian; preferably, an associate's degree; a competitive scholarship GPA; full-time enrollment (12 hours per semester) at MSU-Meridian; and maintenance of a 3.0 or better GPA at MSU-Meridian.

Application for the Riley Next Step Scholarship Program begins March 1 and continues through June 1, 2010. Awards will be made on a competitive basis following a review of all credentials by the scholarship committee. Successful applicants who are members of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society will also receive a grant for books (equal to the published estimated cost of books) in addition to a full scholarship.

For more information, contact Mississippi State University-Meridian at (601) 484-0134. MSU is an equal-opportunity institution.