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**Conference Planning Manager at The Woodlands Resort & Conference Center
Earns Prestigious Certified Meeting Planner Designation**

THE WOODLANDS, TX (October __, 2009) . . . Aliya Thompson, a Conference Planning Manager at The Woodlands Resort, has earned the Convention Industry Council's prestigious Certified Meeting Planner (CMP) designation, the foremost certification of the meetings, conventions and exhibitions industry.

As the premier industry certification, the CMP distinguishes holders as career professionals who have demonstrated a high level of experience, skill and knowledge. The requirements for certification are based on an application, professional experience and a written examination.

"The Certified Meeting Planner designation is not an easy certification to earn, and in fact, only 13,000 planners in 35 countries have the title," says Tom Norman, Director of Catering at The Woodlands Resort. "Aliya put in countless hours and passed the exam with flying colors."

Additionally, Thompson was selected by Meeting Professionals International-Houston Area Chapter's "Leader of the Month" in September for her outstanding contributions to the organization. In addition to serving on the Registration Committee and CMP Committee, Thompson provided leadership and advice to MPI chapter members participating in a study group for the CMP exam.

ABOUT THE WOODLANDS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER

Where natural beauty meets high-tech convenience, the International Association of Conference Centers (IACC) approved Woodlands Resort & Conference Center combines the highest quality conference facilities with resort amenities. The property is centrally located, a three-hour flight from either coast and 18 miles from Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

A founding member of IACC, the 440-room property features 60,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, including a 13,500-square-foot Grand Ballroom and 32 dedicated meeting rooms. Nearly all meeting space offers natural light and views of the lake or forest. Other meeting highlights include two full-service business centers, a concierge floor with private boardroom, an extensive menu of themed food and beverage presentations and a team of experienced meeting professionals. Meeting attendees enjoy activities ranging from team building events to on-property resort amenities such as golf, spa and fitness facilities,

145 miles of nature and bike trails, five pools and indoor and outdoor tennis courts. Visit www.woodlandsresort.com or call 866-554-8118 for group planning needs.

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