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Hardin Construction Company, LLC
4700 Millenia Boulevard
Suite 350
Orlando, FL 32839

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Whitney Thrower 404/504-6632
wthrower@hardinconstruction.com

Hardin Construction's Darden Support Center Named "Best Green Building"

Orlando, FL – October 6, 2010 – Hardin Construction Company was recognized among *Southeast Construction's* Best of 2010 winners for their work on Darden Restaurant's Support Center, naming it the "Best Green Building."

Southeast Construction's annual competition recognizes construction and design excellence in the four-state region that includes Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. This year, 183 entries vied for top honors in 22 different categories, based on construction type. An independent jury of industry experts reviewed the entries, and met in September to finalize this year's winners. Eligible projects had to be located within the four-state region and completed between Sept. 1, 2009, and Sept. 1, 2010. "Best Of" awards were given to the top entry in a category. "Awards of Excellence" were also presented to projects that the judges deemed to be especially worthy of recognition. All winning projects will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Southeast Construction* and will be honored at a luncheon to be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando on Dec. 8.

Darden Restaurant's New Restaurant Support Center (RSC) located on 57 acres at the intersection of John Young Parkway and Taft-Vineland Road. The combined efforts of Trammel Crow Company (Development Agent), Perkins + Will (Architect) and Hardin Construction Company (General Contractor) resulted in the construction of a 469,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility on track to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. Upon final certification from the USGBC, it will become the largest LEED Gold NC building in Florida.

Darden's new headquarters greatly exemplify Hardin Construction's continued pursuit to go green. Examples of the "green" initiatives Hardin took while working on this project include the use of systems like high efficiency heating and air conditioning and an automatic lighting system that dims or brightens according to the amount of sunlight entering the building which will in turn help reduce energy consumption by 16 percent. Increased use of natural daylight is made possible by a 114,000 square-foot glass curtain wall exterior, a highly reflective roof system that reduces the heat island effect and help maintains the buildings interior temperature and more than 90 percent of the waste generated from construction was recycled.

Additionally, the building features multiple amenities for Darden's employees including a 5,000 square foot fitness center staffed by Florida Hospital, a wellness center complete with exam rooms and diagnostic laboratory staffed by Florida Hospital, a financial services center operated by Wachovia, an on-site dining facility and company store and wireless data connectivity throughout the campus.

"It is especially rewarding that after three years of planning and building, our Hardin associates were recognized for their achievement of Darden's vision. As a green facility, it will stand the test of time as we talk about it for years to come," states Bill Pinto, President of Hardin Construction Company, LLC.

About Hardin Construction Company, LLC

Founded in 1946, Hardin Construction Company, LLC is a leading general contractor and construction manager in the United States and has consistently been in the forefront of its safety and sustainable practices in its industry for years. With offices in Atlanta, Ga., Tampa, Fla., Orlando, Fla., Raleigh, N.C., and Austin, Texas, Hardin Construction provides comprehensive construction services including general construction, construction management, design-build, and renovation. A privately-held company, Hardin Construction provides these services in markets such as retail, hospitality, residential, office, education, healthcare, public assembly, governmental and institutional. For more information, visit www.hardinconstruction.com.

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