

ERIC EVANS

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Background and Professional Contributions:

Growing up in a low socio-economic section of Chester, PA planted a burning desire in me to achieve greatness. Seeing the devastation of my community and a struggling mother try to make the ends meet made me feel responsible to make things better for me, my family and the community around me. I realized at an early age that my best chance to pursue greatness and to change the economic condition of my family was to pursue basketball because playing the game came natural to me. From the first time I watched a basketball game, it has always made more sense to me than anything else. I began learning and trying to perfect the game by studying greats like Dr. J and Michael Jordan.

I played basketball throughout my younger years. Older individuals in the community began asking me to play and to coach their teams. I continued to play throughout high school and was a true standout, making city and state honors multiple years. I also led my team to a state title in 1994. With limited guidance and leadership, I pursued college the best way I could. I lacked knowledge regarding AAU teams, and neither had an agent nor a marketing team. As a result, I was not recruited as heavily as I could have been.

After high school, I attended Cheyney University and played for their basketball team. Although they lacked resources for sports, I still managed to be named All-American during both my junior and senior years. As I matured athletically and academically, I also realized the importance of shaping my character. Upon concluding a productive collegiate career, I pursued a professional basketball career. Unsuccessful at making it to the NBA, I played sparingly overseas in Europe for a few years, but realized I had so much to offer other athletes - starting with my younger brother, Tyreke Evans.

I stopped chasing a professional career, returned to Chester, PA, and began pouring all of my knowledge and expertise into my younger brother, Tyreke. While attempting to shape Tyreke's life and basketball career, I realized that many more youth could benefit from my knowledge. The city of Chester issued a city-wide curfew to combat the massive crime and violence in the city. I started a youth program in Chester that allowed youth to learn and play the game of basketball, shifting their focus to something positive rather than the senseless murders in the community. My program was so successful that the Mayor excluded my program from the city-wide curfew. I receive several certificates and recommendations from anti-violence groups worldwide. In 1997, the Mayor of Chester awarded me a key to the city for my effectiveness in mentoring and educating youth, not only in basketball, but more importantly, regarding character and integrity. These experiences shaped my vision of starting FiDonce (a play on the word "confidence") in 2007, a basketball training organization.

FiDonce Player Development, Inc. is a company established to build character, integrity and athletic acuity in athletes from the collegiate and professional ranks. My primary focus has been to devote my basketball experiences to help inner-city youth develop their basketball skills through FiDonce. Doing this has allowed me to provide student athletes with the tools they need to develop athletically, socially, and academically. FiDonce Player