



### **Damon Gunn Biographical Information**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Damon Gunn to the BCI Board of Directors. Damon brings tremendous experience to BCI. Not only has he been involved with the NBA, but also brings his experience of interaction with youth and their families in the heart of the city. He knows first-hand the influence pro players have on the youth today.

Damon is currently the Director of Campus Services at Yellowstone Academy in Houston TX, which is in the heart of the city (3<sup>rd</sup> Ward) directing school operations, where he oversees transportation, food service, family engagement, recruitment and enrollment. In talking about his role, he stated “I love working with students and families in the heart of the city and I want to see our students succeed in and outside of the classroom.” Prior to moving to Houston, he worked in the Minneapolis Public Schools at the district level running a family engagement program.

In addition to serving the youth and their families at Yellowstone Academy, Damon serves as a Chaplain for the Houston Rockets. Prior to his family’s move to the Houston area a couple of years ago, he served the previous 14 years as a Chaplain for the Minnesota Timberwolves. He feels that chapel is a time to look at what God’s word says on dealing with the struggles, battles, temptations, triumphs and testimonies that players, and men in general, face on a daily basis.

Damon has been involved with BCI in various ways over the past six years. “I love BCI’s commitment to the pro basketball player at all levels of the game. Many guys aren’t in the NBA their entire career, ending up playing professionally overseas or here in the G-League.” Damon stated, “Because we know as men, our purpose isn’t all about our job/career, I love that BCI is about the player as a man and their full God given purpose and wherever that takes them.”



Damon comes to his thoughts and beliefs through his early affiliation with the NBA and pro basketball players. At the age of 22 he started with the Minnesota Timberwolves, working with the team in the community and player relations department. One of his best friends from college played for the team, making it an even greater opportunity. He stated, "As a young man, my entire life was really built around the NBA. It was my job and then after work, I was immersed in the other side of the NBA lifestyle." Following his stint with the Timberwolves he went to work for former NBA player Trent Tucker and his foundation with his after-school program.

Damon explained that one evening while out with some players, he felt a strong need to lay down his drink and go home. "I knew right then I had a choice to make," said Damon as he walked away from the NBA World as he knew it and "into a relationship with Jesus". "I definitely made the right choice, even though I didn't know what I was getting myself in to." Over the next five years he grew in his relationship with Jesus. Damon has used that experience along with many others to share in chapel services before every home game with players invited from both teams about "how we can be the men God is calling us to be."

Damon feels his number one priority is being a dad and good father to my girls and a good husband for my wife. "They deserve the best. I don't always deliver on that, but try." He lives in Houston with his amazing wife, Senovia, and two of his four daughters (the younger ones) They love to spend time together doing family activities, swimming, the girls' sports activities and traveling.