



RICE UNIVERSITY

“An abundance of leaders courageously confronting the world’s most complex challenges.”

Dear Mr. Javion Gonzalez,

Leadership is something you have to have the spark born in you and then have it carefully nurtured and grow to become a steadily burning fire inside. These are the kinds of students I look for, and these are the types of students that Rice University produces.

If you want to be the leader of the future you could make no better choice then to come to Rice University for your basketball career and educational opportunities. There are many opportunities for a student on our campus to develop and hone their leadership skills.

First, for all Freshman and Sophomores we have our IMPACT retreat ([Impact | Rice Student Center | Rice University](#)) It is a totally student run retreat where the upperclassmen of Rice help the sophomores and freshman to harness and recognize their leadership ability and goals from their experience. It is a powerful weekend of workshops and self discovery that would benefit any future leader.

We also have *Lunch and Lead* sessions. They are 4 semesterly sessions on diverse leadership topics that are open to the whole Rice campus, from students through faculty members. Topics can range from legacy development to how to delegate effectively.

There is also a Summit Leadership symposium. It is a day-long program open to all Rice students, both undergraduate and graduate, to help them evaluate and sharpen their leadership skills. We also have many student clubs or you can start one yourself if you have a passion that is not already part of a club.

Those are some programs that you might be able to find anywhere, but what makes Rice special for those who want to become leaders is the *Doerr Institute for New Leaders*. The quote at the beginning of this letter is their mission statement and they are a very unique experience for anyone who wants to go into leadership positions. You might have heard of the Carnegie Institute, if you haven't, they are an Institute that determines what type of institution every College and University in the nation are. Well, Rice and the Doerr Institute partnered with them to create a new classification for Leadership for Public Purpose. It is a totally free Institute to any Rice student and is an amazing opportunity for any one to realize their true potential. But don't just take my word for it, listen to a student:

“My experience shedding perfectionism and embracing a growth mindset underscores the Institute's commitment to empowering individuals to lead authentically and inspire others to reach their full potential.”

-Skyler Zinker

There are many different programs that enhance a student's experience. They range from workshops, to year long cohorts, and small group excursions into the Houston area to talk and experience life with the Leaders in the community where they live and work. If you would like to find out more feel free to browse their [website](#) and you will know there is no place else for a leader like you.

And leadership opportunities aren't the only thing that makes the campus experience of Rice University unique and rewarding. We have a residential college system. There are now 12 unique communities within the college that every student is part of. Each college has its own set of events, intramural sports and other unique experiences that enriches the college experience. It gives the close knit feel of a fraternity without all of the hazing and such that is sometimes found there.

Now that I hope I have given you a sense of what you can expect if you come to Rice University for the academic and campus side of life, let me touch on what you can expect from your basketball experience here.

Even though I am a first year coach here, Rice has a rich tradition of competing at the higher levels of the NCBCA over the years. We are continually thought of as a high caliber program, and I aim to continue this tradition. I need people like you and your talents to get this done and continue to be thought of as a Top 30 school and work our way even higher.

To do this we will turn around the team that I have inherited. We were good, but with your talents, we can win 20+ games every year and make it into the big dance on a regular basis. I am a big believer in defense being the spark to ignite everything. And your lock down defensive ability both inside and on the perimeter will be a lynchpin in our pressure switching defensive scheme.

On offense I like to run a quick tempo passing game that runs through the post player, and you with your post talent would be the ideal player to run this game through. I also love that you have outside talent as well if needed.

So, let me sum up the reasons you should come to Rice University to continue on your basketball and life journeys:

- Doerr Institute: A one of a kind leadership experience
- A team that is already highly thought of around the country that you can take even higher.
- A chance to put your stamp on our new winning tradition.

If you come to Rice, there is no telling where you can LEAD us.

Sincerely,

Coach kdr
Rice University