

## Marcus Spencer, Executive Director and Founder Chi- Prep Elite Sports and Entrepreneurship Academy



After seeing the lack of opportunities for Chicago youth in many urban areas, Marcus Spencer, a Cook County Juvenile Court probation officer of 27 years and former professional basketball player decided it was time to fill in that gap. His interest in screen printing and embroidery was used to create a company that would make t-shirts for the youth sports teams that he volunteered with throughout the city and Chicago Public Schools. It was through this contact that he began forming his own youth basketball teams, where he initially started out with one basketball team of seven players, which has now grown over the years into programs incorporating camps, clinics, and youth teams throughout the city of Chicago and surrounding suburbs.

With over 35 years of experience in the sports industry, 27 years in the juvenile justice system and 25 years in the printing industry, Spencer's Mind Over Matter, LLC has since grown from a screen printing and embroidery company, to a company that offers services such as Hoopaz Only Health and Wellness and its newest division **Chi- Prep**, a high school sports academy, using entrepreneurship education and life skills enrichment classes to help mentor today's athletes and to help facilitate the sports scholarship process.

Being that Spencer believes he is in the "business of saving kids", he has taken these divisions and combined them to function under one umbrella. It is his goal to unify these divisions inside a sports facility that will help empower athletic youth within the community through education, employment, and awareness about the "other" careers in sports.

With his vision, he has created one of the most innovative and necessary institutions of its time. Chi- Prep is ready to create a setting to not only educate teens but create a safe place to be open about socio-emotional learning and balance its growth with sports and entrepreneurship. Chi- Prep is Chicago's future.