



NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

5800 Airline Drive • Metairie, LA • 70003 • www.pelicans.com

September 25, 2014

To those interested in the International Lightning Institute ,

I want to offer my personal endorsement of Mark Harwell and his vision of creating the Lightning Institute. We have talked for years about the need to get back to the very basic fundamentals and teach promising young athletes the proper footwork, shooting technique and passing as well as understanding the intangibles of the game. There are current NBA players who lack the basic skill sets but get by because of incredible athleticism.

Our goal over the years was to find an opportunity to develop the grass roots factory that Europe has already implemented and create an Institute with state of the art facilities that would become ground zero in changing the culture of youth basketball and its development. I am excited about being the future Director of the non-profit Lightning Institute and instilling my knowledge and philosophy of the game into future generations. Our hope is to create a competitive environment in which there are rewards for being successful in playing the game the right way.

The Institute will also provide a home base for some of the top players at the professional level to train on the West Coast, participate in a summer league or join their team for a training camp in October.

There are a great number of plans and dreams that are yet to unfold. We hope you will join us in making them come true.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Vinson".

Fred Vinson
Assistant Coach

FV/pm

