



March 24, 2015

Dear Graduating High School Seniors and teachers from Bessemer, Birmingham, and Jefferson County:

In 2008, I founded The DeMeco Ryans Foundation, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, as a way to give back to the community and to showcase the positive lifestyles and contributions of professional athletes. Although I have excelled on the football field, I want my accomplishments off the field to be just as effective.

As an advocate for education, it has been my desire to lend a helping hand to youth from my hometown. In 2009, I implemented a scholarship program for the graduating seniors of Bessemer City High School. In 2010, I opened it to graduating high school seniors from Bessemer, Birmingham, and Jefferson County. This year, **the DeMeco Ryans Foundation Scholarship Program** will award fifteen \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students in their educational endeavors and five \$1,000 scholarships to teachers to support innovation in the classroom.

We are searching for candidates that are truly in need and meet the scholarship criteria. **Applicants will be notified by May 22, 2015 on the status of their application.** Scholarship awards will be presented during the Annual DeMeco Ryans Foundation Football Camp on June 20, 2015.

Candidates must meet the following criteria and submit the following information to be eligible for the scholarship:

- Applicants must complete scholarship application in its entirety, as well as submit the supporting documents, to **Mrs. Fredrica Nelson-Fortune** at Pinson Valley High School (6895 Highway 75 North, Pinson, AL 35126) by **Friday, April 24, 2015 for students and Friday, May 1st for teachers.** If the form is incomplete, inaccurate, or not signed, it will not be considered.
- Student applicants must be graduating high school seniors from Bessemer, Birmingham, or Jefferson County and have a 3.0 or above G.P.A.
- Student applicants must already be accepted to a 4-year college/university (and have proof in the form of an official letter on letterhead from the university)
- **Student applicants** must provide the following supporting documents:
 - An official school transcript
 - Two (2) letters of recommendation (at least one from a teacher or counselor)
 - An official letter of acceptance (on letterhead) from a 4-year college/university
- **Teacher applicants** must provide the following documents:
 - Two (2) letters of recommendation (at least one from a current supervisor or administrator).
 - If selected, candidates must submit a comprehensive plan documenting how the funds are being used. Candidates will have one school year to implement and provide documentation of this approved plan.
- Applicants must be able to be filmed and photographed by media for documentation purposes.

We look forward to reviewing your application. For questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Fredrica Nelson-Fortune at fnelson2010@yahoo.com or 205-613-5164.

Best Regards,

DeMeco Ryans, Founder