***Denise Thomas*** is the president and owner of The Effective Communication Coach, LLC, a consultancy focused on transforming emerging and existing professionals into great leaders by mastering the art of effective communication and networking. Her clients include Kraft Heinz, Associated Bank, Northwestern Mutual and Manpower Group. Organizations she’s consulted and coached include the National Black MBA Association, Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

Born and raised in Evansville, Illinois, Denise moved to Milwaukee in 2003, at the age of 27.

Denise earned a bachelor of arts degree in business management from Cardinal Stritch University and—in her words—she ‘earned an upper- level degree in the ‘School of Life.’ She fully credits her grandmothers Essie Thomas and Agatha Schroeder, former Milwaukee Times Black Excellence recipient Carmen Giles, and others for setting standards and creating pathways for her success.

Denise serves on the Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin Board of Directors, Mount Mary University’s Communications Advisory Council and on the Cardinal Stritch University College of Business Advisory Council in Milwaukee. She is member of The Links Incorporated—Milwaukee Chapter, TEMPO Milwaukee and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee’s Women United Leadership Council. She is also a lead facilitator at St. Norbert College as part of the School of Business’s Center of Exceptional Leadership and a co-instructor for the Cardinal Stritch University Mission Fuel Leadership Program. She is also a certified Hogan Assessment and CEL360 Coach.

Denise is the mother of two future leaders, her daughter Dominique and son Daren.