

Insight on Coaching – Guest Bio

Patricia Thomas

Founder, Thomas Coaching Company, Inc.

Introduction

Patricia Thomas is the founder and lead executive coach of Thomas Coaching Company, Inc, a coaching and consulting firm which boasts an impressive clientele including executives from top companies such as AT&T, New York Times Corporation, Siemens Business Systems, Toshiba America, Time, Inc., DCI Group and Verizon.

Thomas is a regular speaker at several African American professional alliances, networks and conferences including *Essence Magazine's* "Women Who Are Shaping the World" Leadership Conference on the topic of strategies for accelerating your career. Thomas also brings 20 years first-hand experience as a black professional in Corporate America, having held a variety of executive management positions at AT&T prior to becoming a coach.

Experience

Thomas began her 20 year career with AT&T as an Account Executive for a national retail chain of 12 department stores, and held a variety of executive management positions within the company. These include Regional Vice President of Consumer Markets, Marketing Director for the International Consumer Long-Distance Business, leading national advertising, direct mail and community sponsorships for 14 market segments in eight different languages. She then became AT&T's National Account Manager for equitable life, and later assumed profit and loss responsibility for the company's business mobility products.

Thomas was a corporate sponsor with Inroads, Inc. of New York, and for several years served as a visiting professor in the Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) – a National Urban League initiative supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Education

Thomas completed the sales and marketing executives program at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. She received her B. A. in English from Michigan State University and a M. A. in English and Communications from Columbia University.

Professional Affiliations, Publications and Recognition

Thomas is a facilitator for a New York chapter of the Women Presidents' Organization – a nonprofit organization committed to the growth and development of women-owned firms exceeding \$2M in revenue. She also serves on the boards of the Queens Library Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of La Guardia Airport, and Queens Community Board # 3, and was a director for the New York Institute of Technology.

Thomas has a vast resume of speaking engagements including: 100 Black Men and the Alliance of Black Telecommunication Workers; keynote speaker at the Fifth Annual Conference of the National Association of Black Female Executives in Music and Entertainment (NABFEME); and the *Essence Magazine's* "Women Who Are Shaping the World" Leadership Conference.

Thomas' articles on coaching topics have appeared in several publications, a few of which include: *The Network Journal*, *Healthwise Magazine* and *Entrepreneur Magazine*. She has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* and *Black Enterprise Magazine*.