

Terrence Thames - Short Biography
Updated Spring 2024

Terrence Thames is an Emmy-nominated entrepreneur, deeply committed to his faith, family, and the economic empowerment of minority communities. Raised on the South Side of Chicago and later in Iowa City, Terrence was nurtured by his college-aged cousin from the age of 8, where he was exposed to a broader spectrum of opportunities. His early experiences fostered his involvement in church activities, video production, journalism, and music.

Beginning his professional career at 17, Terrence founded his own agency in 2011. Under his leadership, the agency focuses on integrating innovation, branding, and strategy, while weaving cultural narratives into compelling visual and digital content. His prior roles include serving as a producer and director for ESPN and as the Director of Creative Services for the Drake University Athletic Department, bringing a rich background in media production to his current endeavors.

In addition to his professional work, Terrence is an esteemed educator, having guest lectured at Iowa State University and taught at Drake University, Grand View University, and the University of Iowa. His commitment to business and community upliftment is further demonstrated by his role as the incoming Board President for the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and his involvement as one of the organizers of the Athene Black and Brown Business Summit, one of the largest events of its kind in the Midwest supporting minority entrepreneurship.

Currently, Terrence dedicates his efforts to family, faith, and fostering wealth-building initiatives among minorities. His work extends beyond business, as he actively supports community upliftment through sponsorship of local events and mentorship programs aimed at scaling minority-owned businesses. His accolades include the title of 2022 SBDC Entrepreneur of the Year (Encompass Award) and an Emmy® nomination for the documentary, "Telling Our Own Story: Poverty and the Wealth Gap" on PBS.