From: Rogala, Rick
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 11:04 AM
To: WATN.Staff
Subject: IMPORTANT: Denisha Thomas Joins TEGNA Memphis As News Director!

Good Morning Team!

I am thrilled to announce that Denisha Thomas is joining our TEGNA Memphis team as News Director!

Denisha is a proud native of Memphis. After graduating from Overton Performing Arts High School (where her love for and career in broadcast journalism began), she obtained a Bachelor of Journalism Degree in Convergence Journalism, with a minor in Sociology, from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Denisha began her professional career as a News Content Producer at KAIT-TV in Jonesboro and then WMC-TV in Memphis. Her impressive journey took her away from our region for a bit as TEGNA recognized her talent and she moved to our sister station in Cleveland as News Content Producer for WKYC-TV. Following a successful career as a News Content Producer, Denisha was promoted to Executive News Producer position for our sister station WGRZ-TV in Buffalo, and ultimately returned to Cleveland in the Executive Producer role at WKYC-TV.

Denisha's talent, professionalism and leadership are recognized by her peers and our industry. She was selected for the 2019 TEGNA Leadership Development Program and the 2020-21 Poynter Institute & Washington's Post Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media. She served as a recruiter during the National Association of Black Journalists Convention, and she continues to serve as a speaker and mentor for upcoming collegiate students in the industry Denisha is a 2017 and 2018 Emmy-nominated Producer, and a 2017, 2018, 2019 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award recipient through her coverage of stories during her time at WGRZ-TV in Buffalo.

Throughout her career she has covered several major events including the Tamir Rice shooting, Republican National Convention, and the 2017 NBA Finals. She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalist, Mizzou's Griffiths Leadership Society (Women's Alumni Association), and a former Big Sister for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Erie County, Denisha is the oldest daughter of Edward and Debby (formerly Thomas) Gaskin and Darren Thomas, I (deceased), and holds her faith and family at the top of her priority list.

Denisha loves and respects this community and everything that makes us unique. She is passionate about journalism and storytelling; and, about transforming our relationship with our audience. Denisha encourages and fosters the growth of her team, and she embraces the opportunity to work with us in building a strong, vibrant culture and brand.

Please join me in welcoming Denisha home- and to our family.

All the best,
Rick