

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sheila Brooks

PERSON

Brooks, Sheila Dean, 1956-

Alternative Names: Sheila Brooks;

Life Dates: June 24, 1956-

Place of Birth: Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Residence: Silver Spring, MD

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Broadcast Journalist; Entrepreneur

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist and entrepreneur Sheila Dean Brooks, Ph.D. was born on June 24, 1956 in Kansas City, Missouri to Gussie Mae Dean Smith and Stanley Benjamin Smith. She received her B.A. degree in communications from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1978. Brooks paid for her final two years of college while serving in the Advanced Placement Program of the United States Navy Reserves from 1976 to 1978. She went on to receive both her M.A. degree in political science in 2003, and her Ph.D. degree in communication, culture and media studies in 2015, from Howard University.

In 1978, Brooks joined KCTS-TV in Seattle, Washington as a reporter and producer, where she worked until 1981. From 1981 to 1983, she worked for KREM-TV in Spokane, Washington, as a reporter and anchor. Brooks was then hired as a news director and anchor for KAMU-TV/FM in College Station, Texas, working until 1985, when she accepted a management trainee position at the Dallas Morning News in Dallas, Texas. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1988, and worked as a senior producer at Vanita Productions in Baltimore, Maryland. From 1989 to 1990, Brooks served as executive producer for special projects and the documentary unit at WTTG-TV Channel 5 in Washington, D.C. She founded SRB Communications in 1990, a full-service advertising and marketing agency specializing in multicultural markets, serving as founder, president and CEO.

Brooks has served as a board trustee on the Federal City Council in Washington, D.C., on the boards of ColorComm and Morgan State University's Global School of Journalism and Communication. She also served as chair of The Presidents' RoundTable, a board member of the Greater Baltimore Committee and on the boards

the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council and the Center for Women's Business Research.

Brooks has won more than 150 entrepreneurial, marketing and journalism awards. She was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Science Silver Circle, an Emmy Award Hall of Fame by the National Capital/Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She was the first National Association of Black Journalists' member to receive the President's Award three times.

Her other honors include the 2016 Top MBE Award, 2015 Advocate of the Year Award, and 2012 and 1995 Supplier of the Year Awards from the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council; the 2014 Women in Business Champion from the D.C. Chamber of Commerce; the 2011 Pat Tobin Entrepreneurial Award from the National Association of Black Journalists; the 2011 Shining Star Award from the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women; the 2011 Entrepreneurial Trailblazer Award from Howard University's School of Communications; the 2009 Black Rose Entrepreneur Award from New York State Black Women Enterprises; the 2005 Enterprising Women of the Year Award from Enterprising Women Magazine; and the 2002 and 1998 Women in Business Advocate of the Year Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, among others.

Dr. Sheila Brooks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 30, 2014.

Related Entries

University of Washington [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Master's

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

PhD

KAMU-TV/FM [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to 1985]

News Director and Anchor

SRB Communications [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199006 to ?]

President and CEO

KCTS-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1981]

Reporter and Producer

KREM-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to 1983]

Reporter and Anchor

Dallas Morning News [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1985 to ?]

Management Trainee

Vanita Productions [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to ?]

Senior Producer

WTTG-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1990]

Executive Producer for Special Projects

The President's RoundTable [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

President

Greater Baltimore Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Committee Member

Center for Women's Business Research [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Vice President/Public Policy and Vice President/Communications

Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member and Co-chair of the Public Policy Committee

Capital One Bank [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Women's Leadership Exchange [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Women in Film and Video [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Washington, D.C.'s Small Business Development Center [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Women's Advisory Board for the Washington Group of MassMutual [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

National Center for Children and Families and Lab School [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Trustee

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board and Committee