



Biography - Sheila Brooks

SHEILA BROOKS is an *Emmy-award winning* journalist, entrepreneur, and dedicated advocate for minority and women's issues and small businesses. Ms. Brooks is founder, president and CEO of **SRB Communications, LLC**, a full-service multimedia communications agency and post-production facility in Washington, DC. Celebrating 21 years in business, the agency specializes in social marketing, multicultural advertising and broadcast production. **SRB Communications** helps clients develop their brand, positioning and strategies in advertising, marketing and public relations campaigns through cross-platform media formats in broadcast, print and multimedia. Ms. Brooks is an expert in entrepreneurial education and minority business issues. She serves as the *Entrepreneur in Residence* in the School of Communications at Howard University where she provides consulting services in strategy, branding and media outreach for an entrepreneurial incubator.

Prior to starting her firm in 1990, Ms. Brooks built a distinguished television career as a news director, reporter, anchor, and documentary producer at CBS, NBC, PBS and Fox owned-and operated and affiliate TV stations across the country. Her more than 33 years in the television and communications industry has garnered several awards, including 42 *national Telly Awards*, a *national Gracie Award* from American Women in Radio and Television; induction into the NATAS Silver Circle, the Emmy Award Hall of Fame by the National Capital/Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; two *local Emmy Awards*, and four *local Emmy Nominations*.

Her entrepreneurial honors include the *2011 Shining Star Award* from the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, *2011 Pat Tobin Entrepreneurial Award* from the National Association of Black Journalists, *2011 Entrepreneurship Trailblazer Award* from Howard University's School of Communications, *2009 Black Rose Entrepreneur Award* from New York State Black Women Enterprises,; *2008 Top 100 MBE Award*, a regional award from the State of Maryland's Governor's Office recognizing enterprising women and minority entrepreneurs; the *2005 Enterprising Women of the Year Award* from *Enterprising Women Magazine*, the *2002 and 1998 Women in Business Advocate of the Year Award* from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the *1998 Entrepreneur of the Year Award* from the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, the *1997 Small Business Advocate of the Year Award* from the Department of Defense Regional Council for Small Business, and the *1995 Supplier of the Year Award* from the Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council (MSDC).

A sought-after speaker, Ms. Brooks testifies before the United States Congress and presents at various business and journalism conferences, schools and universities nationwide. She serves as National Spokesperson for "*Accelerating the Growth of Businesses Owned by Women of Color*" Research Project, a multi-year research effort to help "women of color" entrepreneurs grow their businesses, sponsored by the Center for Women's Business Research (CWBR) and Babson College. Previously, Ms. Brooks served on the Comptroller's Minority Business Advisory Panel which makes recommendations to the Board of Public Works for improving contracting opportunities in the state of Maryland; as a member of a "Brain Trust" representing national entrepreneurial organizations that met regularly with The White House; and the SBA's leadership to develop political strategy and legislative policy recommendations on small business issues.

Ms. Brooks has served on numerous nonprofit and paid boards throughout her career. Currently, is Vice President/Public Policy on the board of the Center for Women's Business Research. She serves as Vice President/Communications for The Presidents' RoundTable, an organization of African-American businesses that provides access to contracts for all minority businesses. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the MSDC. She serves on the Advisory Boards of Capital One Bank, Women's Leadership Exchange, Women in Film and Video, and Washington D.C.'s Small Business Development Center. She is Past Chair of the Women's Advisory Board for the Washington Group of MassMutual. Her past community commitments include service as a Board of Trustee for the National Center for Children and Families and Lab School of Washington, and 35 years of board and committee service with the National Association of Black Journalists.

Ms. Brooks is pursuing a Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Studies at Howard University. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications with a major in broadcast journalism from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a Master of Arts degree in political science from Howard University in Washington, DC. She is an alumna of the Greater Leadership Washington program and the Minority Business Executive Programs at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business and Dartmouth College's Amos Tuck School of Business.

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