

Girl Boss

Professional women support each other's #girlboss power.

Ashley Brown, founder of women's empowerment group, Girl Boss Greenville, owner of Ashley Brown Strategy, and Huffington Post contributor never thought about being a journalist. "Philip Caston pulled me aside . . . he thought I could be and editor one day." Brown said. Brown invited seven female business owners out for drinks July 2016, and it became a 49 women event. "It really choked me up seeing the need for a positive female community where women from all socio-economic backgrounds can share experiences, resources and support with one another." Brown said. "For me female empowerment is about women empowering themselves and knowing they can create their won paths and opportunities." Brown said. Brown also wants women to know, "It's okay to stumble and fail and screw up, and it's okay to write about that as well.

Not only is Brown an influential girl boss in Greenville, she has strong views on large scale women's issues as well. Brown participated in the 10,000 women's march in Greenville at the same time that Women's Marches were taking place in Washington D.C. Brown thinks highly of feminism when it is practiced correctly. "If you say you're a feminist then you interview equal numbers of men vs women for a role in your company. You pay a woman the same as a man. You respect human-kind equally." Brown said.

"Girl Boss Greenville is a group of women from all walks of life who support one another. This is important. I want women who drive school busses to have the same educational opportunities as the women who run the Junior League." Brown said. She wants women to know that they can't impress everyone, so they only need to impress themselves and reach for hat they want. (photos, John Doe.)



“You’re an asshole if you don’t want women to succeed.”

“Screw that. Be biased. Tell the truth.”

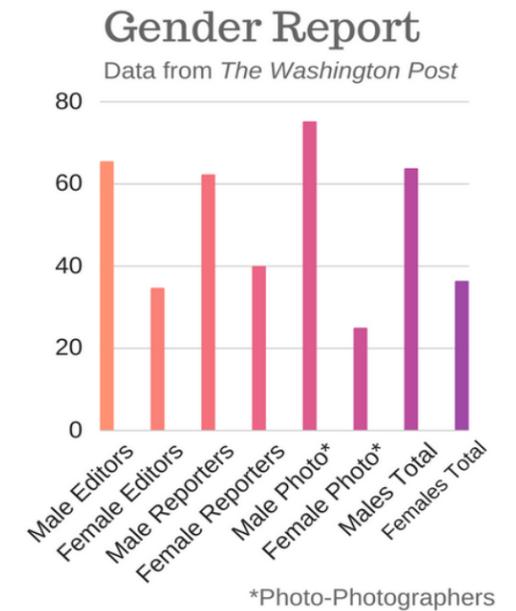


“You can’t tell a woman’s story without really having that perspective of a woman.”

SIPA president , Sara Goodie, feels very strongly about women as journalist and as leaders on a local and international level. "Especially in fields that are sensitive it is crucial as journalist, where we are covering different topics and talking to an adverse range of people and telling their stories it is so vital to have that representation within a staff," Goodie said. She tries to stay as unbiased as possible when covering issues important to her. "I think women are incredible. I think they are strong, powerful. They are driven. They have to have been to have made it this far in history." However, when she approaches a story, she tries to really listen. "I try to keep that out I try to counter argue with myself and really listen to the people who are talking. That's part of a journalist's job to listen to people and not to judge them and try to understand where they are coming from," Goodie said.

“What’s important to women, is important to men, is important to everyone, is important to us as humans.”

Mary Kay Downes, staff advisor, and JEA national yearbook advisor of the year expresses her views on getting women involved in the field of journalism. "90 percent of both of our staffs are female. What we really have to encourage is getting the men to want to work with the women," Downes said. She believes journalism is a field women should break into "because they can really be competitive unlike some other things where the glass ceiling is real," Downes said. "It all starts with journalism. It is crucial in a democracy that people keep their minds open for everything," Downes said. As for women getting in important leadership roles in the world and in journalism she says, "this is already happening and I think it will eventually happen in the United States," Downes said.



Sam Aaron is on a SIPA leadership board full of females. He also has a staff that has a lot of girls. "If the staff was only girls or guys, it would be a lot more biased and would have less diversity in our stories," Aaron said. "I feel like it brings a different perspective covering a topic of something that you aren't. So it brings an additional element and you have to be more sensitive about it. You can't just say something even if you think it's right or wrong because it could offend someone else," Aaron said. As far as women breaking into the journalism field "you have to make it even. Bring more diversity by covering more things so if you cover things both guys and girls are interested in," Aaron said.

“The employment of men and women has remained about the same for years -- newsrooms remain about two-thirds male.”

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