

WTC 'I Have a Voice' with Jasper Baldwin

[00:00:00] **Christi Powell:** Hi, welcome to Women's Talk Construction with Kristy and Angela. Hi Angela. How are you doing today?

[00:00:08] **Angela Gardner:** I'm good. How are you Christi? I'm doing good.

[00:00:14] **Christi Powell:** So we are super excited about the guests that we have today because our mission's to create an inclusive environment for everyone in non-traditional roles, and definitely Jasper Baldwin does that. Um, she's in high school. She is breaking barriers. Hint. Breaking barriers forum.com, and I really would like to see you all that are out there listening.

[00:00:37] Just encourage this next generation and the emerging leaders that we see in non-traditional roles. So Jasper is here today and she got to take off school just so she could be on our podcast today. Hi Jasper. Tell us a little bit about what you're doing and why firefighting was such a good option for you.

[00:00:56] **Jasper Baldwin:** Hi. Thank you for letting me be on your podcast. You're welcome. So I have always liked to help people. It gives me a sense of fulfillment and, you know, knowing that I made somebody smile or I made somebody's day a little bit better just makes me feel so happy. And I love challenges and firefighting is definitely a challenge.

[00:01:19] You know, it just, I love it so much and I never expected to love something so much. I every day is just, We do a different skill every day and it is so wonderful.

[00:01:31] **Christi Powell:** So that's probably one of the things that you love about it. Do you like change? Do you like to learn something new every day?

[00:01:35] **Jasper Baldwin:** Yes, I do. Learning is like, I actually really love to learn and especially when you have a good teacher, it just makes it amazing. Yes. And my teacher is awesome. That's cool. Aw, that's great.

[00:01:49] **Angela Gardner:** How, how often do you go to school to, cuz you're at a career center with this class, right?

[00:01:55] **Jasper Baldwin:** So it is actually every day. It's basically like school, but we only go in the mornings.

[00:02:00] **Angela Gardner:** Okay. So it's like a two hour class, right? Yes, it is. Okay. And that's where you're getting your OSHA training and, and all the other

certifications you've got?

[00:02:09] **Jasper Baldwin:** Yes. You get a lot of certifications. Yeah.

[00:02:11] **Angela Gardner:** Yeah. And the, I think you even noted a hazmat.

[00:02:14] **Jasper Baldwin:** Hazmat. Yeah. I got my hazmat certification. Um, I got osha.

[00:02:19] There's NIMS courses, which is na, national Firefighting. Mm-hmm. Certifications. And we got a lot of those. We still have some more to do, but yeah. So you go to entering, right? Yes, ma'am. Yes, I do. Yes.

[00:02:31] **Christi Powell:** Awesome. Just in case we have listeners out there that are interested.

[00:02:35] **Angela Gardner:** Yeah, we'll definitely have to follow them on social.

[00:02:37] **Jasper Baldwin:** Mm-hmm. Oh yeah. They have a lot of opportunities. Um, there's baking and auto tech and law enforcement. They do so many different career paths. It is nice. So fun, and the teachers are so encouraging and motivating. That's

[00:02:51] **Christi Powell:** great to hear. Yeah. In our own county.

[00:02:58] **Jasper Baldwin:** Yeah.

[00:02:58] **Angela Gardner:** There's some great career centers out there. Well, so one of my questions for you, Jasper, is what are some of the biggest challenges that you face as a a female firefighter student? So what are those challenges that you're facing? Like either physically or you know, any social expectations or have you seen any of that yet?

[00:03:18] **Jasper Baldwin:** I'd say the biggest problem I'm dealing with right now is gender equality. Mm. I am definitely treated different because I'm a girl. You know, I'm not gonna name any names, but I haven't been treated with the respect. That I deserve, you know, instead of motivating me and you know, lifting me up. They constantly make fun of me and say degrading things about me.

[00:03:37] And you know, even though I'm strong enough to do a lot of the things that they can do, they won't let me do it because they see me as weak. But I have worked so hard and you know, I work out a lot at home. I'm a very fit and physical person and you know, it just, you are feels so Thank you. It's just a little disappointing.

[00:03:59] You know, I go there to do that and I can't even do it. Thank

[00:04:03] **Christi Powell:** you so

[00:04:03] **Jasper Baldwin:** much for sharing that. Yes. Yeah. Thank

[00:04:05] **Christi Powell:** you for sharing that. That was awesome to just hear, you know, in a respectful way that the challenges that you're facing.

[00:04:14] **Jasper Baldwin:** Yeah. I think a lot

[00:04:15] **Angela Gardner:** of our listeners would like to know, cuz we have a lot of young listeners, like how do you deal with that when you get home?

[00:04:22] Or do you, do you call someone up that. You as a mentor, do you talk to them about it? How do you deal with that?

[00:04:30] **Jasper Baldwin:** My mom has helped me a lot with that. She knows everything that's been going on and, um, she just motivates me and she lets me know my self worth. You know, she yeah, tells me, you know what they say, it doesn't matter because they know that you're successful and it is scary to them.

[00:04:49] To see a girl do the things that they're doing. Yeah. And you

[00:04:53] **Angela Gardner:** are doing some awesome things. You are awesome.

[00:04:56] **Jasper Baldwin:** We lift Thank,

[00:04:59] **Christi Powell:** we're here for you for sure. You know, we have a forum called breaking barriers forum.com, and we would love for you to go there and introduce yourself to our audience so that if somebody's got questions for you or wants to get into firefighting, they would know how to get ahold of you.

[00:05:16] Okay?

[00:05:16] **Jasper Baldwin:** Yes, I would love that. So

[00:05:18] **Christi Powell:** next, uh, question I have to ask, where do you see the role of female firefighters in the future, and what do you have to contribute to that evolution?

[00:05:31] **Jasper Baldwin:** Well, I have a voice and I want to. To be heard. You know, I think that women can do anything they put their minds to if they really wanna do it, and, um, woohoo.

[00:05:44] You know, they did woo um, they didn't even have female bathrooms

and stations because it is a male dominant job, and they just didn't even feel the need for that. But lately they have been, you know, building women's bathrooms and they have rules now so that women can have bunks away from men. And their own showers.

[00:06:03] Um, and they're starting to make, um, women's size clothing, so they're being a lot more inclusive. Um, and I would like to see a lot of, you know, female fire chiefs and leaders in the future. Yes. I would've

[00:06:15] **Angela Gardner:** never have guessed that Christine. No. Women's

[00:06:18] **Jasper Baldwin:** restrooms. Yeah. Yeah. They just didn't feel the need to Really.

[00:06:23] No. Cause there wasn't. Wow. Yeah.

[00:06:24] **Christi Powell:** Nope. I remember that

[00:06:26] **Jasper Baldwin:** very well.

[00:06:30] **Christi Powell:** Yes. I.

[00:06:32] **Angela Gardner:** Well, my next question for you, which I can't wait for our audience to hear about it, is what advice would you give to the younger, um, women that are interested in pursuing a firefighting career? You know, they're interested in going and checking it out at their local career center.

[00:06:49] **Jasper Baldwin:** Don't let anybody tell you that you can't do it.

[00:06:52] If you put your mind to it, like I said earlier, you can literally do anything. I always wanted to be a firefighter, but I didn't think it was possible because I'm a girl. But then I saw some brave women that had their own station. There's a station, I can't remember where it is, but it is completely women.

[00:07:08] There is no men. Really? Yes. We need to find that one. Yeah. Um, and it inspired me so much, you know, it's very rewarding and it was the best decision I ever made. I won't say that it's easy because it's not, but it is all worth it. And if you wanna do it, you definitely should. I love that.

[00:07:29] **Christi Powell:** I love that too.

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[00:08:14] So how has it impacted your personal life and relationships being a firefighter?

[00:08:20] **Jasper Baldwin:** Well, personally, it has made me a lot more confident and love it. I like that one, Kristy. And to be honest, it's made me so much happier than I was when I started it. You know, I feel like I have a purpose now, and it just gives me a sense of fulfillment and my relationships have improved because I'm a happier person now.

[00:08:43] So you would

[00:08:44] **Christi Powell:** say that there really isn't a lot of negative. That you found once you got into it, other than just some challenges that you have with certain people that may not want to see you in that role. Right.

[00:08:54] **Jasper Baldwin:** Yeah. The only challenges I face are like fears that I won't be able to save somebody one day.

[00:09:00] Mm. Um, you know, I have some personal fears, but I've gotten over a lot of it. Yes.

[00:09:05] **Christi Powell:** That's awesome. Well, your heart is definitely in the right place and we are so happy to be able to share your story. So I feel like we really need to talk to you some more because you have some really great, uh, advice and wisdom for the next generation.

[00:09:20] So, I know we talk a little bit about what would, what would you tell our listeners, but what would you tell our listeners about. Just jumping out there and trying different things. Do you think that's a great way to figure out what your role really is or your passion may

[00:09:39] **Jasper Baldwin:** be? Definitely, and I'm a very good advocate for that because I was a competitive swimmer and I swim from six to 16, so for 10 years of my life I worked very hard on it.

[00:09:52] And that's what I thought I was gonna do. I thought that I was gonna be a professional swimmer. I thought I was gonna go to the Olympics and that was gonna be my thing. But then I realized that it wasn't really for me. And even though I had spent so much time working on that, I found firefighting. And then I realized that's what I wanna do with my life.

[00:10:12] So, you know, if you. Even if you've worked on something for a very long time, that doesn't mean that's what you have to do with your life. Try new things and go different routes because you never know what you might find. You might find a new hobby or you might even find your purpose or your future. So

[00:10:30] **Christi Powell:** what great advice that is.

[00:10:31] Great advice. Vasper. So how did, how did you get so mature so fast? That's what I wanna know, because I think you're smarter than I'm,

[00:10:39] **Jasper Baldwin:** oh, no, it doesn't. Um, I think I've just, um, dealt with a lot of things in life and, um, you know, I've been a lot of places and I've just had to mature faster that way. Yeah.

[00:10:54] For our audience

[00:10:55] **Angela Gardner:** out there who can't, who's just listening in, I want you to hear this. She is wearing pearls right now. Yes, in the video, but yet Kristy and I have seen her in a picture that her uncle sent her proud uncle with her. Whole firefighter outfit on, which I don't even know how sh I mean, it's probably hot heavy than her,

[00:11:18] **Jasper Baldwin:** so, um, yeah.

[00:11:19] But you looked really, really cute in it, for sure. Yeah. Thank you. I wanna say something just because it, like, if you're a female trying to go into a man dominated job, that does not take away from your femininity, but. You know, I still dress in, you know, dresses and skirts and I can be feminine, but I can also, you know, do hard work.

[00:11:40] I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty. So, you know, you don't have to be one or the other. You can totally do both. I love

[00:11:47] **Christi Powell:** that. I love it. So how does our audience get ahold of you, other than you're gonna sign up on the forum, right? So you'll have your info there. Um, how else would our audience get ahold of you or watch you?

[00:11:58] Is there a social media channel? Do you have your own website already? Because you're like the coolest firefighter on the planet? Like

[00:12:05] **Jasper Baldwin:** what's, oh, thank you. Um, well, I have a private account for my Instagram, but I've been thinking of creating a public account on maybe TikTok or Instagram, so I can try and inspire people.

[00:12:17] I haven't gotten around to that yet, but I want to

[00:12:21] **Angela Gardner:** Yes, you should. Maybe you could put that on the breaking barriers Yeah. For 'em when you do that so that they can follow you and. Because I know that there are gonna be a young, a lot of younger students that probably see you and wanna hear more and, and follow you.

[00:12:35] **Jasper Baldwin:** That would great. Yes. I've definitely been thinking about it, so I, yeah. Awesome.

[00:12:44] Do we have time for any more? We

[00:12:46] **Christi Powell:** do questions or? Yeah, we do. Actually. I wanted to ask her, if you don't mind. Yeah. Did you think about the Women Confidence Builders event? I know you had to leave before I got to speak

[00:12:55] **Jasper Baldwin:** to Oh, she went to work. It was so inspiring too.

[00:12:58] **Christi Powell:** Oh, yay. It was good. Good. So what, what about it did you enjoy the most?

[00:13:02] **Jasper Baldwin:** Um, honestly, seeing all the women that were so. So passionate about what they did. I loved hearing what they had to say. It was just so inspiring to see all these women, you know, being leaders and having those roles. Like they just talked in front of so many people and they weren't even nervous or anything.

[00:13:20] It was just, oh, we were, it was so good to see. Aw,

[00:13:25] **Christi Powell:** good. That's good. Our goal is in that quarterly event is to have as many young people your age, emerging leaders in the room as there are. Us women that are just a little older, but are experienced in the room so that we can help each other, um, and help you grow a little faster because we do face some challenges, um, in our roles, right?

[00:13:48] Because we're not in normal roles. But I'm glad that it was really good for you. Really, really glad that,

[00:13:54] **Jasper Baldwin:** um, yes, I really am so honored that you invited. Awesome.

[00:13:58] **Angela Gardner:** Well that was very cool. Well, Kristy, you're meeting the goal there with that? Yes. That's your testimonial. One of 'em. Yes.

[00:14:05] **Jasper Baldwin:** That's

[00:14:06] **Christi Powell:** awesome. So, um, how else can we help you, Jasper, other than being cheerleaders because you already

[00:14:12] **Jasper Baldwin:** got that.

[00:14:15] Honestly, you know, I think if we all work together, we get more people in on this, and I would love to see more young women going into these jobs. Like I've seen a lot of women go into man dominated jobs, but I would like to see a lot of younger mm-hmm. Generations like my age trying to. Build up and become this, you know, at my career center I've seen a lot of girls in the law enforcement class and um, auto extrication, nice mechatronics.

[00:14:42] It's very inspiring. Mm-hmm. To me. See that

[00:14:45] **Christi Powell:** Nice. Yeah. That's great. Well, thank you again, Jasper, for being on. Tell your Mom I said hello and we can't wait to see your place. And um, again, thank you for being on and inspiring all the women that are listening.

[00:14:59] **Jasper Baldwin:** Thank you. Yes. Thank you so much for inviting me.

[00:15:06] Well,

[00:15:06] **Christi Powell:** that's all for this episode. Thank you so much for listening to the Women's Talk Construction Podcast with your host,

[00:15:12] **Jasper Baldwin:** Kristy Powell and Angela Gardner. See you next time.