

## **Women's Leadership Development Series**

Webinar 3: Financial Management in Times of Crisis - Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
12:30-2p.m.

### **Panelists:**

**Christina Larson Kelly**



Christina A. Larson is a dynamic leader with an enthusiasm for supporting seasoned nurses as well as novice nurses. Christina is seen as a key point person in the New England area for Villanova University. She is heavily involved with assisting Villanova nursing graduates as they seek advice on obtaining their first position in the nursing field. She has helped organize networking events throughout the area, even going as far as to offer her own home as a meeting place to bring Villanova graduates together. Christina is dedicated to and passionate about preparing novice nurses for their careers and providing them with insights into the job market through skill building that is integral to their development as professionals.

After receiving her BSN from Villanova University in 1974, Christina held leadership positions in several Boston teaching hospitals-including the Lahey Clinic. Building on her teaching and administrative knowledge she earned her MSN from Boston University. Recognizing the lack of resources available for nurses to assist them in managing their financial health, Christina obtained a Certified Financial Planning certificate from Northeastern University. She is founder and president of Larson Financial Planning which is aimed directly at the needs of health care professionals.

As an integral member of the College of Nursing's Board of Consultants, Christina has shared her expertise with fellow alumni and our nursing students. In this position she was able to offer exclusive knowledge from her years as a nursing and executive professional who had also owned and managed a health-related service company. She knew that it was important to engage Nursing alumni and encourage them to become more active in their contributions to the College early in their careers. Christina, herself, has been very generous to the University for many years, and personally supports the College in a significant way with the Christina Larson Kelly '74 Endowed Nursing Scholarship. Her gift provides the financial resources needed for nursing students who might not otherwise be able to pursue studies at Villanova. Christina is also spearheading an idea for a College of

Nursing professional development program geared toward shaping the careers of young Villanova nurses in areas such as personal skill development, finances and networking.

**Amanda Lawrence**



Amanda Lawrence is a change agent, known for developing creative strategies, building complex systems and executing large-scale collaborative efforts with integrity and accountability and through authentic stakeholder and community engagement. Lawrence has served in the nonprofit sector for twelve years and serves as the Vice President of Community Impact at Trident United Way. There, she oversees an \$8.6 million, Community Investments portfolio and three, collective impact and community solutions initiatives in Education, Financial Stability and Health.

Lawrence's career began in 1995, after graduating with a BS in Marketing from the University of South Carolina and joining a niche, communications and crisis relations firm owned by a SC State Senator. From there, she moved into branding and promotions, rising to a national branding agency that worked exclusively for the McDonald's Corporation.

Five years after returning to SC and serving as a Sales Marketing Manager at a CBS television station affiliate, Lawrence made the transition to the Development office of a youth-focused, nonprofit that operated six diverse programs. From that role, she moved to Trident United Way, where she began serving as the Director of Financial Stability and later rose to the Vice President of Community Impact. In 2011, Lawrence was recognized as one of the Charleston Regional Business Journal's, Forty Under 40, for outstanding leadership in the Charleston business community. She is also a Riley Fellow and alumni of Furman University's, The Riley Institute, Diversity Leaders Initiative, fall 2015 class. Lawrence holds an MBA from The Citadel, the Military College of SC, and is an adjunct professor in Webster University's MBA program. Lawrence has three children ages, 28, 26 and 16 and three grandsons, ages 2 and 3.

**Meredith Okenquist '96 CLAS**



Meredith serves as the Career Transitions Coach on the Experienced Career Services Team for Villanova University. In this position, Meredith is responsible for the counseling and coaching of Villanova alumni and adult learners on career development and career transitions. She provides programs designed to support alumni, graduate students and students in the College of Professional Studies pursuing career promotions or changes, industry transitions, return-to-work, or considering further skill building, research and education.

Meredith enters this role with more than 20 years of experience in human resources. In her last role, she was the Director of Alumni Career and Professional Development for Temple University in the Fox School of Business and had held a role prior within the Fox School of Business as an Associate Director, Graduate Professional Development where she provided career services support to students in the MBA and MS programs. Before her time at Temple University, Meredith worked for Careers On The Move, a boutique recruitment firm based in Manhattan, for 11 years within talent acquisition. Meredith specialized in financial and risk management, market data, energy, technology, legal services, sales and valuation recruitment. Her working credentials also include human resources positions within compensation and benefits management for SAP America and NovaCare, Inc.

Meredith holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from Villanova University and an MBA from Temple University Fox School of Business, with a concentration in Human Resources Administration.

**Moderator:**

**Joyce Russell, PhD**



Joyce E. A. Russell, PhD, is the The Helen and William O'Toole Dean of the Villanova School of Business and a Professor of Management. In this role, she serves as the chief executive, academic and fiscal officer for VSB and represents the school nationally and internationally.

Prior to joining VSB, Russell served as both senior associate dean and vice dean at the University of Maryland's (UMD) Robert H. Smith School of Business. Before joining UMD, Russell was a tenured full professor in the College of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee (UT).

Russell is a licensed industrial and organizational psychologist and has more than 25 years of experience consulting with both private and public sector organizations. Her expertise is primarily in the areas of leadership and management development, negotiation tactics, executive coaching and change management. She received her PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Akron, Ohio and her BA degree in Psychology from Loyola University in Maryland.