



Marla Silliman

Area of Practice

Marla began her career as a registered nurse and transitioned to serving in various progressive healthcare leadership roles. She has over three decades of healthcare experience, ranging from clinical nursing leadership roles and senior administrative leadership roles for 15 years to CEO of Hospitals for over 15 years.

Education & Experience

Marla earned a BS in Nursing from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts and an MBA from the Hagan School of Business at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. Before her role at TriHealth, she served as the Senior Executive Officer and CEO for the Florida Hospital for Children and Women's Network for over 15 years, where she led the development, building and oversight of one of the state's largest women and children's hospitals and integrated networks.

Today at TriHealth, Marla serves as Senior Vice President over Regional Operations, which includes Good Samaritan Hospital, Evendale Hospital and five Outpatient Centers, Good Samaritan College, and the Good Samaritan Foundation. In addition, she provides senior leader oversight for several key service lines and Institutes, including Cancer Institute, Women's Institute, Orthopedic Institute, NeuroScience Institute, Surgical and GI Service Line and Emergency Services.

What are some critical skills you feel women must master to prepare for a career in healthcare leadership?

What I would share with women who want to excel at leadership is to start by knowing, appreciating, and leaning into your natural God-given strengths as a leader. You don't have to be like everyone else, and you won't excel at every leadership skill that others have. Many women inherently are nurturing, which is a much-needed skill in building teams and leading other caregivers. Women tend to be great at multitasking and can handle crises well.

Communication is a required skill for any leader. Master it, study it, practice it and realize you will never stop working on your communication skills. As you practice your communication skills, you must find moments to inspire and instill some element of humor. The best way to do that is to tell stories, and the more stories that relate directly to you help others come to know the real you as a leader.

And we've all heard that the most important part of communication is listening. That is actually a skill that must be learned. Most of us don't have it perfected without intentionality. Remember that those on your team likely have better ideas than you do.

And above all, be a servant leader, put others first...always. Remember that people are always watching you—even when you're not looking. And they will remember what you are doing when you think people are watching you the least.