



VILLANOVA School of Business

JAMES M. DANKO THE HELEN AND WILLIAM O'TOOLE DEAN

Dean James M. Danko spent nearly two decades as a successful entrepreneur before taking on leadership roles in higher education. Danko has brought his unique entrepreneurial style to top undergraduate and graduate business schools including Villanova, Michigan, UNC-Chapel Hill, Babson, and the Tuck School at Dartmouth. His work at these schools resulted in increased financial resources, enhanced support for faculty, curricular innovation, improved program delivery and student services, and increased school prestige. In addition to his collaborative leadership style, Danko is best known for his strong support of excellence in faculty research and teaching, his consistent success in dynamic organizational change, and his long-standing commitment to ethics in business education.

Danko was appointed to the Villanova School of Business (VSB) in 2005. Under his leadership, financial gifts to VSB have quadrupled and applications to the school have more than doubled. Student quality has reached an all-time high at both undergraduate and graduate program levels. VSB, which was previously unranked, is now ranked #11 in the nation for its undergraduate program, #11 in the nation for its evening MBA program, and #25 in the world for its executive MBA program by *BusinessWeek* magazine. Media mentions of the school have risen from fewer than 20 citations to over 500 million brand impressions per year.

Under Danko's leadership, the VSB faculty has reassessed traditional departments and created new cross-disciplinary working groups. New incentives and awards have been established to recognize exceptional faculty research and teaching. Danko has also reorganized VSB's administrative leadership team across undergraduate, graduate, executive, and summer programs. VSB has reinvented its undergraduate curriculum, introducing a fresh, highly-integrated learning experience to incoming students in 2008. The curriculum focuses on four areas of business excellence: a global mindset, innovation, ethics, and technology. The team-taught, year-long, flagship course—Business Dynamics—teaches first-year students about the overarching purpose of global business within society, so that the functional knowledge they later gain makes sense within a broader and deeper context.

Danko is regularly featured in the media and invited to speak at conferences as a national thought leader on business school strategy and curricular change. He works closely with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC) on initiatives including accreditation and leadership development. Danko has served three consecutive terms as president and as a member of the board of directors of the MBA Roundtable (MBAR), an international business school consortium that fosters collaborative discussion around the design and delivery of graduate business programs as a way to advance the practice of management worldwide.