

Influential Women Profiles Liliya Sablukova: Advancing Fiscal Leadership Through Strategic Financial Stewardship

LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL, UNITED STATES, September 7, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Bringing More Than 15 Years of Public-Sector Finance Experience to the Challenge of Balancing Growth, Infrastructure, Innovation, and Community Expectations

Liliya Sablukova, a results-driven Chief Financial Officer based in Lakewood Ranch, Florida, is making a meaningful impact in public-sector finance through strategic fiscal leadership, disciplined financial management, and a commitment to developing the next generation of leaders. With more than 15 years of progressive experience spanning public-sector finance, budgeting, investing, cash flow forecasting, governmental accounting, and strategic fiscal management, Liliya has built a career around helping organizations make informed decisions while maintaining accountability and long-term financial stability.



For about three years, Liliya has served as Chief Financial Officer of the Lakewood Ranch Inter-District Authority in Manatee County, Florida. In this role, she oversees financial strategy, budgeting, investments, compliance, and operational funding for rapidly growing, high-value residential districts. Her responsibilities require not only technical financial expertise but also the ability to understand competing community priorities, anticipate financial challenges, communicate effectively with stakeholders, and make decisions that protect both fiscal health and quality of life.

Liliya's transition to the district-level CFO role followed a successful tenure as Senior Fiscal Services Manager for Manatee County Government, where she managed complex countywide

financial operations. Her responsibilities included budgeting, grants administration, capital project oversight, and financial reporting. The move represented a shift from managing broad countywide fiscal systems to leading within a more focused but highly demanding special district environment.

Today, her work requires her to balance strict governmental procurement and compliance requirements with the expectations of a rapidly expanding community. Lakewood Ranch is home to residents from a wide range of professional backgrounds, including senior corporate executives who expect responsive service and high standards. Liliya recognizes that effective public-sector financial leadership must account for both the numbers and the people those numbers ultimately serve.

A significant part of her role involves determining how available resources should be allocated among essential infrastructure needs and community enhancements. Roadway repairs, sidewalk safety, and core infrastructure maintenance take priority when public safety is involved. At the same time, residents expect well-maintained landscaping, beautification, grass cutting, plant materials, and other amenities that contribute to the character and appeal of the community.

The challenge becomes particularly complex as costs increase.

Projects that once fit comfortably within established budgets can become substantially more expensive as labor, materials, and other operational costs rise. Liliya must continually evaluate whether existing service levels remain sustainable, whether certain nonessential services can be adjusted, or whether assessment changes may ultimately be necessary.

Her approach is rooted in prioritization and careful financial analysis.

"If there is a pothole, they've got to fix it," is representative of the practical philosophy behind her decision-making. Safety-related concerns cannot simply be postponed. A damaged roadway could create a hazard for drivers, while a raised sidewalk caused by tree roots can create a dangerous condition for pedestrians. These issues demand immediate attention.

Other expenditures may require a different approach.

For example, if maintaining mulch across the community costs hundreds of thousands of dollars, Liliya and other leaders must consider whether the work needs to occur annually or whether extending the maintenance cycle could preserve cash for more urgent needs. Similarly, replacing landscaping damaged by drought may compete for funding with other projects.

These decisions are rarely simple. Board members may have different perspectives on priorities, and residents naturally have expectations regarding the appearance and services of their community. Liliya's responsibility is to help navigate these competing priorities while maintaining financial discipline and transparency.

This balancing act illustrates what she believes is one of the biggest challenges facing public-sector finance professionals today: ensuring that financial resources keep pace with growing costs and increasing demands.

Yet Liliya sees significant opportunities within these challenges, particularly through technology and continued professional development.

For her, one of the most important pieces of career advice she has received is simple: never stop learning.

Industries evolve, technologies change, and professionals who stop developing their knowledge risk falling behind. Liliya has embraced this philosophy throughout her career by pursuing additional certifications, participating in classes, attending conferences, and continually seeking opportunities to expand her knowledge.

She believes this mindset is especially important now as artificial intelligence begins transforming the way governments and public organizations operate.

Liliya recently participated in training where she met with city mayors and administrators in Fort Myers to discuss how artificial intelligence is changing government operations, decision-making, and service delivery. One example discussed involved the use of cameras mounted on business vehicles to capture information about road conditions. AI software can then analyze the collected information and help identify and prioritize roads requiring repairs.

For Liliya, developments like these demonstrate why curiosity and adaptability are essential professional qualities.

“Explore, be curious, don’t stop learning,” is the message she shares with younger professionals entering the industry. She encourages women in particular to remain open to technology, education, and new opportunities rather than becoming comfortable with existing processes simply because they have always been done a certain way.

Her own career reflects that philosophy. Liliya did not begin with every step of her professional journey mapped out. Instead, she moved forward with curiosity, determination, and a willingness to learn from every experience.

She encourages younger women not to wait for the perfect plan before pursuing their ambitions.

Many aspiring professionals hesitate because they believe they need complete certainty before taking action. Liliya believes that waiting for certainty can mean missing opportunities that only become visible after someone takes the first step.

She advises women to trust themselves, keep learning, remain curious, and begin before they feel completely ready. Every challenge can offer a lesson, every setback can build resilience, and seemingly small steps can eventually lead to opportunities that could not have been anticipated.

Her philosophy can be summarized in a simple idea: growth happens while climbing the mountain, not while standing at the bottom wondering whether the climb is possible.

That philosophy also defines her approach to leadership.

For Liliya, being an influential woman is not about standing above others. It is about lifting people up and helping them grow. Leadership, in her view, is about creating opportunities, inspiring confidence, and mentoring future leaders.

She does not want simply to manage employees. She wants to develop them.

Whenever possible, Liliya encourages members of her team to attend conferences, participate in training programs, and expand their professional knowledge. She believes that investing in employees benefits not only the individuals themselves but also the organization they serve.

Her goal is to build leaders who can think independently, develop their own capabilities, and eventually create opportunities for others.

"If my leadership helps someone else to believe in themselves, discover their own potential, or realize that they don't need a perfect plan to succeed," she says, then she has achieved the kind of impact she hopes to make.

That people-centered philosophy complements her highly analytical professional responsibilities. While finance requires attention to budgets, forecasts, investments, compliance, and numbers, Liliya recognizes that successful organizations ultimately depend on people.

Her own success, she says, is largely attributable to self-motivation.

She has always wanted to experience more, whether that meant traveling, learning how to cook new things, exploring new areas, helping others, or finding opportunities to improve herself. She has never been comfortable simply sitting still.

That natural curiosity has become a defining characteristic of her professional life.

Liliya believes people should remain active, continue learning, and constantly look for ways to grow personally and professionally. Her philosophy is not limited to formal education. Growth can come from a new experience, a challenging assignment, a conversation with someone

knowledgeable, a conference, a training program, or the willingness to explore an unfamiliar technology.

At the heart of her values, however, is family.

Family and the support of family are among the most important aspects of Liliya's life. That emphasis on support extends into her professional leadership as well. She wants the people she works with to feel supported as they develop their careers and pursue their own potential.

Her leadership philosophy is therefore built on a combination of fiscal responsibility, curiosity, accountability, continuous learning, and mentorship.

As communities continue to grow and public-sector organizations face increasingly complex financial pressures, leaders like Liliya demonstrate the importance of combining technical expertise with adaptability and a long-term perspective. Her experience managing government finances has given her the ability to understand the details, while her focus on people and innovation enables her to look beyond today's challenges toward tomorrow's opportunities.

In Lakewood Ranch, that means helping navigate the financial realities of growth while preserving the services, infrastructure, safety, and quality standards residents expect.

For the professionals she mentors, it means encouraging them to keep learning and moving forward.

And for the next generation of women entering finance and public-sector leadership, it means demonstrating that a successful career does not have to follow a perfectly mapped path.

Liliya's journey is a testament to what can happen when curiosity is combined with determination, continuous education, and a willingness to embrace new challenges. Her message is straightforward: keep learning, stay curious, remain active, trust yourself, and never stop growing.

Through her work as a CFO and her commitment to developing others, Liliya Sablukova continues to demonstrate that effective financial leadership is about more than managing resources. It is about creating sustainable futures, making responsible decisions, supporting communities, and empowering people to become the leaders they are capable of becoming.

Learn More about Liliya Sablukova:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/liliya-sablukova>

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