

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

Alumnae Profile Series

Cassie Warrington '93HS '95C

Vice President

Stock Plan Services, Fidelity Investments

A Forever Saint Mary's Girl

Saint Mary's has been a part of Cassie Warrington's life since she used to sneak into her mother's jewelry box and try on her Saint Mary's ring. One day when she was about seven, her mother, Cathy Leggett Warrington '69HS, found little Cassie playing with the ring and told her, "One day, you're going to meet your best friends at Saint Mary's and you will have a ring of your own." In just a few more years, after visiting campus as a prospective student from Tarboro, N.C., she knew she was going to be a fourth generation Saint Mary's girl.

The lessons Warrington learned at Saint Mary's took her through high school and college, finishing at UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.A. degree with a concentration in English and American History. Upon graduating from college, a Saint Mary's friend suggested a program at UNC for liberal arts majors to earn an undergraduate business degree. That same friend invited her to celebrate the fourth of July that year, connecting Warrington with her father, who offered a job when she finished the business program, demonstrating how Saint Mary's impacted not only her personal life, but her professional career.

Today, Warrington is a vice president, head of sales and product support for Fidelity Investments' Stock Plan Services (SPS) division of Workplace Investing. Based in New Jersey, and with an office in lower Manhattan, Warrington leads a team that provides consultative sales services to public companies regarding their equity compensation programs. With Fidelity's belief in her great proficiency in launching technology products into the market, she has also been asked to lead the SPS Go-To-Market strategy. In 2019, Fidelity Stock Plan Services will expand its global footprint, and Warrington plans to expand her team to support both the German and United Kingdom marketplaces.

Warrington has more than 20 years of experience in the financial services industry, including more than a decade and a half with Fidelity. Prior to Fidelity, she held various positions in client services and operations at USB Financial Services.

"If anything, Saint Mary's taught me how to be strong, to be fearless, to try and then try again," says Warrington. "In life, there are always new beginnings. Just like the first time I walked on Saint Mary's campus – new teachers, new friends, new school. You must learn to survive, to trust, to speak up and have a voice. I learned to take life in stride. One day at a time. In order to succeed, you must be fearless because in the end there will always be someone there to pick you up, dust you off, give you a high five and send you on your way.

"Saint Mary's gave me the confidence to speak my mind, own the outcome, and be courageous and not be afraid to fail. Failing, and understanding the reasons why, might be the best lessons I learned in high school.



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"About six months ago, I took a huge risk. I made a significant career change. Fidelity is all about mobility and investing in talent – their employees. Sometimes that means getting out of your comfort zone. I was given the opportunity to do something different – something I knew nothing about and that was both exciting and terrifying – a lot like my first day at Saint Mary's – a new beginning. I was vulnerable, and I went from being the superstar leader and performer to the person in the room that knew nothing – had nothing to contribute – so I thought. It didn't take long for me to realize, I do have a voice in my new role. I was hired to bring the knowledge and expertise I had in other organizations to the one I'm a part of now.

"Forever a Saint Mary's girl, the lessons I learned there have carried through in both my personal and professional life. To be a part of such a legacy, an amazing line of strong and independent women is a badge of honor that I will forever hold. When I go back and visit Saint Mary's I am always inspired by the girls I meet. They have their entire life ahead of them and, knowing how much Saint Mary's made an impression on me, I know it will make such an impression on them. I want to tell them go out into the world, be fearless, take risks, fail but fail fast, but most importantly be you – a forever Saint Mary's girl."

Just as her mother promised her when she was just a child, she did get her very own class ring, and she did meet her best friends at Saint Mary's.

"I did meet my best friends at Saint Mary's, and they are still my best friends to this day," says Warrington. "And, I met their friends and their friends – you'd be amazed at the seven degrees of separation and the friendships you forge at Saint Mary's significantly influence your life."

Cassie certainly embodies the spirit of Saint Mary's women who are resilient, intelligent, resourceful, passionate, and nurturing, and who are educated to make a difference.

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