



LISA LUTOFF-PERLO

President and CEO, Celebrity Cruises
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EDUCATION

► Studied accounting, Bentley College

CAREER

► Spent 17 years in the sales organization for both Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean International, holding progressively senior roles

PERSONAL NOTE

Though she has no two-legged children, the huge New England Patriots fan has five dogs, two of whom are named Tom and Brady.

An influential business executive is someone others want to follow, who finds a way or makes a way, and who gets results. She's someone who surrounds herself with a smart and winning team, and someone "whose influence, regardless of gender, is based on your track record, results, success and purpose," Lisa Lutoff-Perlo says. "Accomplish those and you will have as much influence as you could ever want."

Lutoff-Perlo has accomplished these feats by always being open in life – to new experiences, challenges and learning. The will to learn is so important, and she has absorbed many important lessons along the way, like being fearless, paying it forward to help others, and that all paths of life are not linear.

"I am a big believer in opening up the world in every way possible, and to people, opening up career possibilities not historically available to women," she says. "I never gave up, no matter what happened. If I faced rejection, I carried on and created even better opportunities. If I faced assumptions or stereotypes, I challenged them."

That "disruptor" status was clear when the executive, who believes she broke through the industry's glass ceiling, hired another pioneer, Kate McCue, the first female American cruise ship captain. It's an event Lutoff-Perlo called "an incredible moment in my career. She deserved it. She is highly accomplished, and I helped her realize her dreams, and she helped me further drive gender diversity in a predominately male profession," she recalls.

Her advice to others? Don't put limits on your dreams and aspirations.

"The only thing standing in our way to success and results is ourselves," she says. "Dream big. You will get further, do more and challenge yourself beyond the limits you have set for yourself. Work hard and be great at what you do. Success breeds success."