Course Title: Connecting the Dots: Telling the Story that will Advance your Career

Course Code: WSP 25

Instructor: Anna Ranieri, MBA, PhD

Course Summary:

WSP 25 is a course designed to help students clarify their views of themselves so that they can effectively share them with others and thereby effectively optimize their careers: at the start, at re-entry, after a job loss or when taking a new professional direction. The focus will be on each person’s own narrative and the best way to convey it to others in spoken form, in writing, and via their behavior in their professional lives. The course will combine didactic and experiential work in an environment of thoughtful engagement with oneself and others as we consider our professional identities and our desired trajectories.

Grade Options and Requirements:

Due to its short format, this workshop may not be taken for a letter grade, but it can be taken for credit. To earn credit, students must attend both days and participate in discussion and group activities.

Course Outline:

Introductions: instructor and students

- What brought us here and why we need to understand our stories of life and work

The nature of narrative: telling and compelling

- The stories that speak to us and the stories that unfold within us

- The crooked and the straight: two ways to understand a professional trajectory

- Stops and starts and what they bring to a narrative

The origin of our tales

- Going inward to understand what motivates and engages us

- Bringing our unique stories outward to be heard and understood

The effective shaping of our stories

- Connecting the dots so others can gain clarity about our nature and our capabilities

- From elevator pitch to daily interactions: how we show and tell