Lynn Videka earned the B.S.N. degree with honors from the University of Illinois in 1972. She earned an A.M degree in 1976 and a Ph.D. degree in 1981 from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Dean Videka was dean and vice president for research at the University at Albany, SUNY, and dean of the Silver School of Social Work at NYU. As vice president for research, she facilitated the founding of an RNA Institute, and had oversight for eight university level research centers and institutes in atmospheric sciences, social sciences, life sciences, and information technology. As dean of the Silver School at NYU, she and the faculty rededicated the school to social justice at every level, strengthened the Ph.D. program, created sustainable global programs, instituted curricular innovations, and increased the school's engagement with New York's high need communities.

Dean Videka has been the dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan since August 2016. Since coming to the University of Michigan, she has engaged the faculty, staff, alumni, students and community partners in a strategic planning process that has resulted in an ambitious strategic vision for the school to lead the entire social work field into the next generation of research, educational innovation and service.