

Deborah Winkleblack
Vice President
Global Supply Chain, Claire's Stores
Class of 1979

How Triton impacted my life

Attending Triton College opened a new world for me. In addition to receiving an outstanding education, Triton provided the instructors, advisors, and environment that taught me I could pursue an education and career while working full-time if I was willing to work at it.

Bio

While attending Triton, Deborah Winkleblack continued working in entry-level jobs within the industry of transportation and logistics, which are now part of the supply chain profession. After Triton, Winkleblack went on as a part-time student at Elmhurst College, where she earned a B.S. in psychology. Although she was taking classes that would lead to a career in the sciences, Winkleblack continued to advance in the logistics field and was enjoying it. She later earned an M.B.A. in international marketing from Rosary College.

Winkleblack's formal career in logistics started at Montgomery Ward, where over a span of 18 years, she worked in freight accounting, dispatch and the transportation group, eventually specializing in international transportation where she found a home. After securing a position at Claire's Stores, as the import transportation manager, she was promoted to director of logistics, which included responsibility for international trade compliance, logistics visibility system and vendor compliance. As executive director of logistics, she was responsible for Claire's Stores global logistics. When promoted to vice president of logistics and trade compliance, she became involved with opening the distribution centers in Asia and Europe, and then the North America distribution center. As the global vice president of Supply Chain, Winkleblack oversees all transportation, distribution and trade compliance globally.

During her career, Winkleblack has enjoyed numerous opportunities for networking, teaching and mentoring within the international supply chain industry. She has taught courses in ocean freight at College of DuPage, as well as principles of importing and exporting, and INCOTERMS at Harper College. She has been active over the years with Women in International Trade, CSCMP, Midwest Foreign Commerce Club, International Trade Club of Chicago, and has attended and spoke at conferences (RILA, SCOPE, EFT, Richmond Events), and has been featured in articles in the *Journal of Commerce*, *RILA* (Retail Industry Leaders Association), *Supply Chain Brain* and *Logistics Quarterly*. She has served on the security committee and steering committee at RILA. One of her crowning achievements was being nominated by the *Daily Herald's Business Ledger* as one of the 2015 Influential Women in Business. Winkleblack says she is most proud of starting the Winkleblack Second Chance Scholarship Fund at Triton, in hopes of helping other young females to reach for the stars.