

DEIRDRE FITZGERALD

KnitWell Group

President, International

Deirdre Fitzgerald is the President of International for KnitWell Group a dominant portfolio of women's specialty retail brands including Ann Taylor, Chico's, Lane Bryant, LOFT, Soma, Talbots, and White House Black Market, that together generate more than \$6 Billion in sales annually. In her role Deirdre leads the development and implementation of growth strategies designed to expand the value and reach of the brands through strategic partnerships domestically and internationally.

Previously, Deirdre served as President of the Talbots brand, an iconic American apparel retailer with more than 500 stores across the United States as well as an online business that together generate more than \$1.2 billion in sales annually. As President, in partnership with her leadership team, she created stability amidst the pandemic and restored financial growth and profitability to the brand.

Prior to Talbots, Deirdre spent seven years with New Balance where she served as the Executive Vice President of Global Apparel and Licensing. In her role she led the transformation of the Global Apparel design, Innovation, Product management, Merchandising, and Licensing teams, resulting in a period of unprecedented growth and profitability.

Earlier in her career Deirdre spent nearly a decade with the Talbots brand, ultimately serving as the Executive Vice President and General Merchandise Manager for Talbots where she was responsible for the merchandise strategy and direction for Talbots apparel, footwear and accessory business in all channels.

She also served as the Head of Men's Apparel at J. Crew and held various merchandising roles at Brooks Brothers. Deirdre began her career at Bloomingdales' where she completed their executive training program.

Deirdre is committed to supporting women and is a member of the Global Board of Directors for Dress for Success, an organization dedicated to empowering women. She is also on the Advisory Board for the Hingham Historical Society and the Board of Directors for Repurpose for a Purpose.

Deirdre holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Hamilton College.