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RETAIL

Nordstrom reappoints Geevy Thomas as Nordstrom Rack president

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Nordstrom operates more than 230 Nordstrom Racks. Image credit: Nordstrom

By STAFF REPORTS

Off-price retailer Nordstrom Rack's current president Karen McKibbin has announced her retirement after 30 years with the Seattle-based retail chain.



During the three decades Ms. McKibbin worked for Nordstrom, she held many leadership roles within the company, including president of Nordstrom Canada, where she led the retailer's first international expansion for its full-price stores. Ms. McKibbin will step down as Nordstrom Rack's president in March and will be succeeded by Geevy Thomas, currently chief innovation officer for Nordstrom, Inc.

Hire from within

Ms. McKibbin joined Nordstrom in 1985 and during her more than 30-year career, she oversaw the retailer's expansion. Throughout her tenure, Ms. McKibbin held various roles including president of Canada, president of Nordstrom Rack and a member of the executive team.

"I feel fortunate to be part of this company and to have built a career from which i garnered so much personal and professional fulfillment," Ms. McKibbin said in a statement. "I have a great passion for the team and the business.

"Nordstrom has a strong legacy that I've been honored to be a part of," she said. "It is an incredible brand that will continue to evolve – fueled by the best talent in the business."

When Ms. McKibbin retires in March, she will be replaced by Mr. Thomas, currently Nordstrom's chief innovation officer. Mr. Thomas began as Nordstrom's first chief innovation officer in January 2017 (see story).

Cozy coats + coffee :@nicholeciotti A post shared by Nordstrom Rack (@nordstromrack) on Jan 3, 2018 at 4:24pm PST

Similarly to Ms. McKibbin, Mr. Thomas has worked for Nordstrom for more than 30 years and has held a number of senior leadership positions within the company.

Mr. Thomas' Nordstrom Rack appointment sees the executive return to a previously held position. Mr. Thomas was Nordstrom Rack's president from 2010 to January 2017, when he was appointed chief innovation officer.

"Over the last year, Geevy and the Innovation team have established an approach to leveraging our local assets of people, product and place – and evolve our physical stores," said Blake Nordstrom, co-president of Nordstrom, in a statement. "With this foundation in place, we will begin integrating the team, learnings and processes across various aspects of our business.

"We're fortunate to be able to leverage Geevy's knowledge of our Nordstrom Rack business, which continues to be one of our most productive channels, a driver of innovation and our biggest sources of new customers to Nordstrom," he said.

"Geevy will continue to support innovation as we make that transition."

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