TOP 10 SUPPLY CHAIN TRENDS

ASCM ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
ADVANCED ANALYTICS AND AUTOMATION

AI and machine learning will increase the efficiency and accuracy of mundane tasks, but human employees will still be essential for higher-level planning and relationship building.
NEW ANTICIPATORY TOOLS AND PROCESSES TO HELP MITIGATE RISK

With more complex and connected global supply chains, organizations will increase focus on tools and processes that anticipate danger and reduce risk.
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CYBERSECURITY IS A MUST, NOT AN OPTION

New technologies will create not only more efficiency, but also increased vulnerability. Organizations will need to protect their networks, devices, data and programs in order to mitigate disruption, theft of intellectual property or harm to their brand.
RISING CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ANYTIME-ANYWHERE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Consumer demand for increased convenience will continue to escalate, which means suppliers and logistics providers in the warehouse and transportation spaces will need to be speedier and more responsive.
FINDING, DEVELOPING AND RETAINING SUPPLY CHAIN TALENT

A strong economy, coupled with a long pipeline to develop workers, will mean employers have to devote more resources to find and retain talent as well invest in re-training existing employees to increase productivity.
Supply chain managers will need to ensure they have the right people, vendors, systems, roadmaps and culture in place to adapt to thrive in a digital world.
3D PRINTING COMBINED WITH TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURING PROCESSES

This will create unique combinations of parts that perform better, with lower cost, and more sustainably.
CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP: ETHICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMICAL

Consumers will demand that the products they purchase come from supply chains that operate with a keen focus on the triple-bottom-line of people, planet and profit.
IOT MOVES FROM FRINGES TO MAINSTREAM

The increasing prevalence of cheap and reliable sensors will provide massive amounts of data that supply chain leaders will capitalize on to streamline the manufacturing process both upstream and downstream leading to increased responsiveness, which can be a competitive advantage.
CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Migrations to cities are creating new urban landscapes that have different supply chain and infrastructure challenges. Rural populations are shrinking with fewer births and an aging workforce, which is causing talent shortages and other logistical challenges. As the consumer and talent pools change, supply chain leaders will need to continue to find ways to adapt.