



A very special employee *thank you* this Labor Day!

Employees speak to acts of appreciation and recognition

How do you feel appreciated at work?

"I feel appreciated and valued when staff members ask for my opinion and input on or about various topics."

— Faye Goldner, Portage

"I feel appreciated when somebody tells me I've done a good job and when they choose you for a job because they know you'll do a good job."

— Tom Vick, Portage

"I feel best appreciated at work when both my employers and fellow employees notice and recognize my accomplishments and those things I do well. That could be anything from being recognized at a staff meeting to just being thanked for my efforts throughout the day."

"As a retail employee I also feel appreciated when I have customers who notice and thank me for going above and beyond to help them. Sometimes it's just a simple smile from a customer that makes me feel great about the work I do."

— Kirsten Fredrickson, Comstock

"Sincere praise and honest appreciation for hard work, commitment and attention to quality. Respect."

— Carolyn Meyers, Richland

"Compliments, written or oral, on work I have done. Also, I am often consulted about situations and decisions that must be made in the system."

— Sue Miller, Paw Paw

"The customers really do make me feel appreciated. They are so nice and friendly. And the other help, too, (and) our supervisors are nice and friendly. They treat you as a friend. They don't always tell you you are doing a good job but you know by their friendliness."

— Brenda Harrington, Portage

"They let me know that they appreciate that I am conscious of waste. They know that I can do my job. They leave me alone and let me do it."

— Grace King, Kalamazoo

"When I first started working, it was hard because I started at the beginning of the summer and it was really busy and I wasn't really prepared for it. My boss sent me a message telling me what a great job I was doing and it made me feel pretty good."

— Natalie Patterson, Richland

"I feel appreciated when we get the work done and they tell us how hard we've worked. It's nice to hear a thank you for the work you've done."

— Bill McKinney, Otsego

"Recognition from my co-workers and administration when a job or event is handled well. I am involved in many of my school's social/extracurricular events and acknowledgment for my extra efforts makes those efforts worthwhile. Release time for extra duties such as special ed. paperwork, conferences, etc. is also helpful and a benefit for those involved."

— Laura Maury, Lawton

"I am so fortunate to work in an office where our administrators make a conscious effort to let the staff know that they are appreciated. Our superintendent is very good at thanking staff personally for their efforts, and when she asks you to take on another project, it makes you feel valued, and an important part of the team."

"Our director of operations is also great at showing his appreciation, albeit in a slightly different style. Along with the high fives, and 'you're the best' e-mails, he will give us something to throw at him (nothing too heavy, and without sharp edges) when he comes to us with a last minute request. "This may be a funny way to show appreciation, but it lets us know that he realizes how busy we are, and that his request will put us behind in another area. Usually, we don't even throw whatever it is that he hands to us for that purpose."

— Karen Hummel, Comstock

Compiled by Phyllis Rose

Happy Labor Day!

On **Labor Day**, we salute the hardworking men and women of the American workforce who support our economy through even the toughest times. Your dedication and innovation are the backbone of our nation, and we thank you for all that you do. May you enjoy a happy holiday and relaxing **Labor Day** weekend!



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