

Easy, Inexpensive Ways to Celebrate Student Workers

The National Student Employment Association has declared that the second complete week in April each year be set aside to recognize the value of student employees.

Ways to celebrate your remote student employees:

- Mail/e-mail a gift card - to a store or for take-out.
- Mail/e-mail a personalized card.
- Have the staff sign a thank you e-card for each student.
- Send them flowers or a plant.
- Thank them on your website, social media, at a staff Zoom meeting, or in a newsletter.
- Send an email blast to your department honoring your student employees hard work.
- Send a small, thoughtful gift - a notebook for a writer, a bookmark for a reader, seeds for a green thumb, etc.
- Send a fun gift - make your own s'mores kit, a card game, a mug with a fun message, etc.
- Dedicate a portion of a department newsletter, website, or staff meeting to recognizing your student employees.
- Prepare "care packages" to give to student workers (or to sell to departments to give to their student workers) with popcorn, trail mix, soft drinks, hot chocolate mix, etc.
- Send "Good Egg Awards." Buy plastic eggs, fill with goodies, and mail with "Good Egg Certificates" listing what the student did to deserve the award.
- Mail or email a certificate of appreciation.
- Verbally thank students for their contribution to your department or offer students to be a mentor for them as they continue to navigate their undergraduate/graduate experience.
- Send a note or e-card to your students, showing your appreciation.
- Send a note of appreciation to the parent(s) of your student employee. Parent(s) will be thrilled to know their student is doing important work and your student employee will know how much their work is valued. You should consider doing this ONLY if your student employee provided or provides you with his or her home address information.
- Change the department phone message to recognize student employees
- Use this week as an opportunity to start an award recognition program. Look around the office or at home for a white elephant item. Name the item for the award (Employee of the Month/Week, Great Idea Award, Gotcha Award - catch someone in the act of doing something good) and then make the first presentation of it during Student Employment Week