

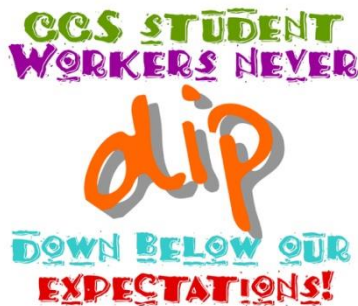
Appreciation Ideas

Student Employee & Graduate Assistant Celebration

Students make up an important and valuable part of the workforce at Northwest. Acknowledging the contributions made by your student employees and graduate assistants encourages them and motivates them to do their best. Here are some suggestions for ways to let your students know how much their work is appreciated. Use these tips during National Student Employment Appreciation Week (second full week of April) or any time!

Food Ideas:

- Pizza party
- Potluck
- Do-it-yourself Sundae Bar
- Desserts
- Foot Long Sub Party
- Cake and Punch
- Hamburger/Hot Dog BBQ
- Breakfast Buffet
- Favorite Chip Dip Party
- Baked Potato Bar
- Chili-Dog Bar
- Candy Bouquets



*Example photos from other institutions

- "Chip, Chip, Hooray! Our staff is the best!" or "You're all that and a bag of chips!" (Serve bags of chips)
- "Our student workers never dip down below our expectations!" (Serve dips)
- "Our staff is red hot!" (Serve chips and salsa)
- "Our staff floats above the rest!" (Serve root beer floats)
- "We're nuts about our staff!" (Serve nuts assortment)

"Tons of Puns" Candy Ideas:

- "You are worth 100 Grand!" (100 Grand)
- "You are out of this world!" (Mars or Milky Way)
- "Thanks for the Mounds of work you do!" (Mounds)
- "You deserve an extra Payday!" (Payday)
- "You are a Joy!" (Almond Joy)
- "Thanks for all you Dew!" (Mountain Dew)
- "Thanks for going the EXTRA mile for us" (Extra Gum)
- "You are the TREASURE at the end of our RAINBOW" (Golden Nuggets and Skittles)
- "You are worth more than GOLD" (Rolos)
- "There is no SUBstitute for you" (Subway Gift Card or Subs for Lunch)
- "This place would be a ZOO without you" (Animal Crackers)
- "DON'T know what we would do without you!" (Donuts and Milk)

Group Celebration Ideas:

- Everybody meet for a movie and dinner.
- Have a scavenger hunt.
- Organize trivia contests with questions about Northwest or your department. Could also include baby pictures of students and ask "who is this person?"

Free Ideas:

- *"Pat on the back" Awards* – Trace an outline of a hand on paper and write a personal note that tells why the student deserves a pat on the back.
- *Award Recognition Program* – Recognize students with certificates for various awards: "Employee of the Day/Week/Month", "Great Idea Award", "Best Customer Service", etc. Create silly awards: "Best Telephone Voice", "Best copier", etc.
- *Celebrate* – Start a recognition program and make the first presentation during Student Employment Week. Think of fun ways to get your point across: My Boss Thinks I'm a Big Deal, Super Staffer or Customer Service Celeb. Of course, traditional titles work, too, i.e. Outstanding Student Employee.
- *"Thank-You" Card* – Create a thank you card and have all the staff sign the card. Leave random notes of kindness in their workspace, post-it notes with positive quotes, words of encouragement, or just to say thanks!
- *Banner Recognition* - Make a poster or banner of thanks celebrating your students and hang it up in the office or workplace. Post pictures and/or mini-bios of students on bulletin boards as a way of highlighting and thanking them for their work.
- *Chalk it up to Your Student Workers* - Use the sidewalk in front of your office as a billboard to thank your student workers in a big and colorful way.



*Example photos from other institutions

Other Ideas:

- Take a group digital picture and send it to a photo editor like Walgreens to make mouse pads, cups, etc.
- Prepare "care packages" with popcorn, trail mix, soft drinks, hot chocolate mix, food, gift, or grocery certificates, free game or concert tickets, favorite DVDs, fast food coupons, free movie tickets, coffee mugs filled with candy and group pictures of students and their supervisor.
- Make up certificates and frame them Spray paint a light bulb gold, screw into a jar of play-dough and make a label around the jar naming who is receiving the "Bright Idea" award.
- Have a secret pal that does little things for them throughout the week. At the end of the week, host a lunch to reveal the secret pal.
- Decorate a workspace, office, or bulletin board in a fun way to celebrate student employees.

Use YOUR imagination... A simple THANK YOU for all they do will go a long way!

*Department funds may not be used to purchase appreciation items (decorations, food, gifts, etc.)