

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 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

- "Our student employees never dip down below our expectations!" (Serve dips)
- "Chip, Chip, Hooray! Our staff is the best!" or "You're all that and a bag of chips!" (Serve bags of chips)
- "Our staff floats above the rest!" (Serve root beer floats)
- "We feel so fortunate to work with you" (Fortune cookies)
- "DON'T know what we would do without you!" (Donuts and Milk) "You are so flipping awesome" (Flips pretzels)
- "We need s'more employees like you" (S'mores kit)
- "Thanks a bunch" (Bananas)
- "Muffin compares to you" (muffins)
- "Thanks for all you Dew!" (Mountain Dew)
- "You are soda-lightful to work with" (soda)
- "There is no SUBstitute for you" (Sub Sandwiches)
- "A little something to brighten your day" (Yellow themed gifts)
- "I think you're the bees knees" (Honey treats)

"Tons of Puns" Candy Ideas:

- "Thanks for the Mounds of work you do!" (Mounds)
- "Thanks for playing an important "roll" in our office" (Tootsie rolls or Swiss Roll)
- "You deserve an extra Payday!" (Payday)
- "You are a Joy!" (Almond Joy)
- "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)
- "This place would be a ZOO without you" (Animal Crackers)
- "You are a lifesaver! Thanks for all that you do!" (Lifesavers)
- "Have I told you Rees-ently that you are so wonderful to work with?" (Reeses)

Group Celebration Ideas:

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

Free Ideas:

- **"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.



*Example photos from Northwest Offices

Other Ideas:

- Take a group digital picture and send it to a photo editor like Walmart to make mouse pads, cups, etc.
- Prepare "care packages" with popcorn, trail mix, soft drinks, hot chocolate mix, food, gift or grocery certificates, fast food coupons, free movie tickets, coffee mugs filled with candy and group pictures of students and their supervisor.
- Have a secret pal that does little things for them throughout the week. At the end of the week, host a food day 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.)
Contact your department leader regarding appreciation funds.