



EASY IDEAS TO CELEBRATE EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Employee Appreciation Day happens every year in early March, and the day provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with your team. Acknowledging your staff on this day doesn't have to be difficult or cost any money. Simple but sincere gestures are just as meaningful – perhaps more so – and will go a long way towards building camaraderie and fostering a culture of engagement.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED:

1. Host a Just-for-Fun Zoom Meeting

Schedule a Zoom meeting where the only goal is a good time. Ask every participant to select a Zoom background that shows a place they would like to visit post-COVID, and then ask everyone to share their travel plans – or travel dreams if they don't have actual plans. Consider holding this meeting as a Friday afternoon 'coffee break' and encourage everyone to enjoy and share their favorite afternoon pick-me-up beverage and snack recommendations. If you have a little budget and manageable team size, surprise everyone at the end of the meeting with a Starbucks or Peet's Coffee (or similar) e-card (value \$10 - \$20 each.) Another version of this type of meeting is to use Zoom backgrounds showing favorite foods and have everyone share their favorite meal/recipe recommendations. Fun e-cards if you have budget would be to a local eatery like In-N-Out, Chipotle, etc. There are so many ways to go with this sort of meeting – let your creativity run wild!

2. Host a Kudos Zoom Meeting

Another feel-good idea, a kudos Zoom meeting can be a round robin format where every participant gives a shout-out to another team member for something helpful, kind, supportive or unexpected that team member did for them in the past month. Just make sure everyone gets some sort of recognition. An easy way to do this is to go in some sort of order – like alphabetical or by Zoom position, and have each person say something about the next person. That way, no one is missed. And don't forget – as the team leader, you should give some words of recognition, encouragement or thanks to every team member when it's your turn. Again, just use this as a launching point for your own ideas – there are many ways to hold a casual recognition meeting.

3. Collect Your Team's Heartfelt Thanks from Bright People, Brilliant Solutions

Go into Bright People, Brilliant Solutions, and scroll through the ideas that were submitted to collect all posts made by your team members. Compile those into a web page or PDF and then share all the posts with your team. Curating your team's posts is a great way to create a living reminder of our appreciation for one another.

We hope these ideas get you thinking about some ways you can show your appreciation to your employees on Employee Appreciation Day and throughout the year. Keep it simple and keep it sincere, and you can't go wrong.

For more ideas, or to discuss your ideas with our engagement experts, please feel free to contact the UCI engagement team:

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