

## Tips for Recognizing Student Employees

Students make up an important and valuable part of the workforce at Oregon State University. Acknowledging the contribution made by your student employees encourages them and motivates them to do their best for the university.

Here are some suggestions for ways to let your student employees know how much their work is appreciated:

- Prepare and distribute certificates of appreciation.
- Decorate office doors or bulletin boards with posters expressing appreciation to your student workers and listing their names. You can include pictures and short bios to help staff get to know them better.
- Have a special gathering to honor your student employees. Ideas include a departmental open house, pizza party, potluck, sundae bar, sub sandwiches, popcorn machine, or a decorated cake.
- Bring in snacks for your student employees.
- Prepare "care packages" or "finals survival kits" to give to student workers, with popcorn, trail mix, fruit, pens, sticky notes, etc.
- Send handwritten or electronic thank-you notes to student employees, letting them know you value them. Or have staff sign a thank-you card for each student worker.
- Make "pat on the back" awards by tracing an outline of a hand on paper, making copies, and writing a personal note on each that tells why the student deserves a pat on the back.
- Present "Good Egg Awards." Buy plastic eggs, fill with goodies, and give out with "Good Egg Certificates" listing what the student did to deserve the award.
- Present awards for special categories (Best Computer Skills, Best Customer Service, Best Telephone Skills, etc.). To add some humor, you might use "white elephant" type items as trophies.
- Honor your student employees with a round of applause in your staff meeting.
- Take a few moments to say thank you!