

Employee Recognition Quotes

- * "Celebrate what you want to see more of."
Thomas J. Peters
- * "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated."
19th century American Philosopher William James
- * "You cannot teach a man anything. You can only help him discover it within himself."
Galileo Galilei
- * "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."
Henry David Thoreau quoted in Dr. Bob Nelson's "Tip of the Week" for February 16, 2005
- * "I have yet to find the man, however exalted his station, who did not do better work and put forth greater effort under a spirit of approval, than under a spirit of criticism."
Charles Schwab, Legendary Steel Industry Pioneer
- * "If you want someone to do a good job, give them a good job to do."
Frederick Herzberg, Management Theorist
- * "I would rather be attacked than unnoticed. For the worst thing you can do to an author is to be silent as to his works."
Samuel Johnson
- * "Every human being is trying to say something to others. Trying to cry out I am alive, notice me! Speak to me! Confirm that I am important, that I matter!!"
Marion D. Hanks
- * "Recognition is the greatest motivator. "
Gerard C. Eakedale - from The Painter's Keys Resource of Art Quotations
- * "Brains, like hearts, go where they are appreciated"
Robert McNamara, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and President of the World Bank.
- * "Recognition is not a scarce resource. You can't use it up or run out of it."
Susan M. Heathfield, Your Guide to Human Resources
- * "The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about."
Oscar Wilde
- * "It's better to be looked over than overlooked."
Mae West
- * "All leadership is appreciative leadership. It's the capacity to see the best in the world around us, in our colleagues, and in the groups we are trying to lead."
David Cooperrider, Professor, Case Western Reserve University
- * "Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition."
Abraham Lincoln, 16th US President
- * "I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."
Abraham Lincoln, 16th US President

- * “That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.”
Abraham Lincoln, 16th US President
- * “I now perceive one immense omission in my psychology – the deepest principle of human nature is craving to be appreciated.”
William James, 19th century American philosopher and psychologist
- * “It is important that you recognized your progress and take pride in your accomplishments. Share your achievements with others. Brag a little. The recognition and support of those around you is nurturing.”
Rosemarie Rossetti
- * “There are two things people want more than sex and money...recognition and praise.”
Mary Kay Ash, American businesswoman
- * “A good goal is like a strenuous exercise – it makes you stretch.”
Mary Kay Ash, American businesswoman
- * “No matter how busy you are, you must take time to make the other person feel important.”
Mary Kay Ash, American businesswoman
- * “We will receive not what we idly wish for but what we justly earn. Our rewards will always be in exact proportion to our service.”
Earl Nightingale
- * “Recognition, celebration, and hoopla are contagious. Are you a carrier?”
Unknown
- * “Truly effective recognition is not a program or a policy mandated by HR; it is a way of organizational life that touches all corners of the organization most every day of the working week.”
Building a Culture of Appreciation. Canadian HR Reporter, March 14, 2005, p.7
- * “There are three great moments of recognition – at birth, at retirement and at death. Between those moments, recognition must be a daily affair, with small gestures. People aren’t looking for remuneration as much as they are looking for simple acknowledgement. Recognition not only has a great impact on employee mental health, it also encourages the investment that employees make in their work. Recognition must be part of an on-going, long-term process.”
Jean-Pierre Brun, Ph. D. Chair in Occupational Health and Safety Management, Universite Laval.
- * “Spending time with your people is one of the most powerful forms of recognition you can bestow. Genuinely seeking their opinions and feedback costs nothing but your time and the dividends are priceless. You’ll see increased morale, more open communication and greater sharing of solutions to business challenges. You’ll also get to know some truly remarkable people in the process.”
James. E. Burton, CEO of CalPERS 1992-2002

- * “Share success with the people who make it happen. It makes everybody think like an owner, which helps them build long-term relationships with customers and influences them to do things in an efficient way.”
Emily Ericson, VP of HR, Starbucks Coffee Company
- * “Early in my career, one of the first business lessons I learned was this: It’s impossible to win the hearts and minds of people unless you clearly establish goals and values and reward people if they act in a way that leads to the fulfillment of those objectives. It quickly became clear to me that if you want to make sure your customers are treated well, you have to make sure you treat your employees well and recognize their efforts.”
F. Robert Salerno. President and Chief Operating Officer Avis. An excerpt from The 24-Carrot Manager. Adrian Gostick & Chester Elton, Gibbs Smith, Publisher. 2002.
- * “Recognition is the most inexpensive, easy-to-use motivational technique available to management.”
Jim Clemmer
- * “Never miss an opportunity to say a word of congratulation upon anyone’s achievement.”
President Lyndon Johnson
- * “It’s more than who you recognize. It’s how you recognize. It’s when. It’s why.”
O.C. Tanner Company
- * Tell me and I will forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.
Chinese Proverb
- * Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.
John F. Kennedy
- * Your rewards in life are always in direct proportion to your contribution.
Anonymous