



National Student Employment Week

April 13th-18th, 2026

Student employees perform invaluable services with enthusiasm, dedication, and initiative. Setting aside a special week to draw the awareness of others is a perfect opportunity to show your appreciation.

National Student Employment Week takes commitment, planning, and coordination yet, the effort yields great rewards.

- Students - Understand their impact and contributions to your campus.
- Employers - Maximize awareness of the service students provide on campus.
- Campus - Increased participation and discussion of student employment and career-related opportunities.

Listed below are fun, easy and inexpensive ways to celebrate your student employees:

Low-Cost Ideas:

1. **Treat Day**, full-time staff bring in treats/breakfast/lunch for student workers.
 - a. Example: Thanks for Everything you do "Round here" (bagels)
 - b. Care package w/snacks, candy, etc.
2. **Treat Week**, each day bring something different – cookies, popcorn, candy, etc.
 - a. You "Crush'd" the week, now "Float" into the weekend - Rootbeer/orange floats
3. **Design** fun awards for each of your students: “Best Customer Service”; “Most Likely to Volunteer for Extra Shifts”; “Best Sense of Humor”
4. **Play** departmental trivia, campus quiz games or have a scavenger hunt and award small prizes
5. **Gift cards** – fast food, subway, pizza hut, target, movies, amazon etc.
6. **Gift – Department swag**
7. **Create Bulletin Board:** Just so "U-no" you are appreciated w/ Uno cards
8. **Decorate** your student's workspace

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Ideas that are Free:

1. Recognize your student employee(s) in your department staff meeting
2. Email an encouraging thought or attribute you admire about your student employee each day during National Student Employment Week
3. Let students **pick music** for the workplace to listen to for the day. (As deemed appropriate).
4. Have everyone participate in **carnival activities** or games for competitive fun.
 - a. For example, have a spinning wheel with fun activities or even challenges that your office must do during specific times.
5. Create a "**Thankful Paper.**"
 - a. Have employees in the office pass around a paper with the student employees' names on it and have the department fill out what they like about the student employee, how they appreciate them or thankful to have them be a part of the team.
6. **Use these certificates of appreciation**, or create your own, to give to your student employees:
 - a. [Student Employee Appreciation Certificate_Template 1](#)
 - b. [Student Employee Appreciation Certificate_Template](#)
7. **Make a banner** to hang for the whole week in your office.
8. **Decorate** an office bulletin board or the office door for the week in recognition of your students.
9. **Give a shout-out** to your students on your department's social media platform:

Post an image of your student employee on your newsfeed with a brief introduction in the caption:

- “Meet ___ (student name) ___, a (position) ___ for ___ (department) ___. Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work you do for our office.”
- **Make sure your student employee is comfortable and consents to having their picture shared on social media.**

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

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