Encouraging Your Employees

By Chris Widener

"I have never seen a person who could do real work except under the stimulus of encouragement and enthusiasm and the approval of the people for whom he is working." Charles M. Schwab

One of the most important things you can do to help your business or venture succeed is to encourage your employees. I know that for many the tendency is to think that an employee should be encouraged by their paycheck (and they should), but employees are people, and people need encouragement.

Here are some ways to help you encourage your employees.

Tell them that you appreciate them. For many, this is all they need. A simple "You know, I really appreciate the hard work and determination you put into this job," is enough to encourage them and get them on the road again.

Give them some time off. Have you ever considered just saying, "You know, you do such a great job, I want you to take an extra day off this week. Make it a three day weekend."

Buy them a gift. A good way to do this is to be aware of what hobbies and interests your employees have. Then when you are out and about and see something that has to do with that particular interest, pick it up for them. Coming into the office and saying "Hey, you know, I really appreciate what you do for the company, and I got this for you as a small token of my appreciation," will do wonders!

Be sure to say "Thanks." No matter what, always be sure to say thank you to those who work for you. Yes they do it for a paycheck, but it always helps to know that their work is recognized.

And as for recognition, a great way to encourage your employees is to **recognize them in front of their peers**. Stand them up and praise them before their co-workers. And watch their faces light up, their countenances change, and their work get better!

Encourage!

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