IMPORTANCE OF BEING AN ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYER

As an employer, the most obvious reason to employ students is to staff your department. However, in addition to getting work completed and supplying an income to student employees, there are various reasons why providing student employment is important. The largest reasoning is that on-campus positions provide a relatively easy way for students to develop themselves professionally.

After completing their degrees, students will be searching for full-time job opportunities. Because real world work experience is much different than the academic setting, this requires them to develop a professional skillset in addition to their degree. These skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management can be acquired through any job, not necessarily a position related to the student’s major.

This is where you as an on-campus employer come in. When you employ a student, you are not only providing them with the chance to earn an income but also a way to help them acquire and improve their professional skills. It is very important for you to serve as a mentor to these students in order for them to gain more real life experience. You can better expose students to professional resources, experiences, and contacts that will be of great value to them even after their time here at WSU is over.

This mentorship not only benefits the students but your department as well. This will improve the quality of the students’ work by improving their morale and setting expectations. You might also learn from the students themselves, anything from how to better manage student workers or how to improve a business process. Furthermore, you will be able to build a more solid working relationship with your student employees, which leads to more harmony in the workplace. While it may seem like student employment is solely about an exchange of work and money, there are actually more important reasons for these relationships. Please consider mentoring your student workers in order to develop them professionally as well as improve your overall business process.

STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

This is an early notice but it is time to begin thinking about the Student Employee of the Year event sponsored by the Academic Success and Career Center.

The Student Employee of the Year program is organized by the Western Association of Student Employment Administrators (WASEA). As a member of WASEA, Washington State University is a participant in their biggest annual event- the recognition of great student employees by awarding the Student Employee of the Year award to one student amongst all registered schools on the West coast.

The event begins by having each registered school send student employee nomination forms to every on-campus employer. The on-campus employer would then nominate student employee(s) to represent their department as an outstanding employee and representative of the university. A selection committee, made up of WSU faculty and staff, will select one student from all of the received nomination forms as Student Employee of the Year (SEOTY) at WSU.

After the SEOTY from our institution has been selected- he or she would be forwarded to the WASEA committee to represent WSU to potentially be selected as the Student Employee of the Year for the entire West coast.

Here are a few FAQs about the SEOTY:

- Duration of employment does not affect qualification for nomination
- Each department can nominate as many students as desired
- Students can choose not to be nominated
- Only direct supervisors can nominate student employees

You will receive more notifications about the Student Employee of the Year as the Spring semester approaches. If you have any other questions, please contact Jordan Jameson at (509) 335-6634 or jordan_jameson@wsu.edu.