

Professional Relationships

Life is all about relationships. Family and friends certainly lead the pack. Along with those, our professional relationships are a key to our success and satisfaction at work. Here are some thoughts on successful co-worker relationships.

Get to know your co-workers on a personal basis. As a supervisor, you will likely not be “best buds” with everyone but you can show a sincere interest in their personal lives (family, friends, outside activities) which leads to a respectful relationship for both of you. Above all, recognize their individual qualities and never take them for granted as an employee.

Adding each co-worker to your email contact list is a good place to record fun facts about them including their spouse’s name, children and special interests. Their birthday or anniversary can be noted as well.

Send a birthday email to them on their Big Day as well as recognize them if they should be at work that day.

We all face personal struggles with family, accidents, deaths and other life changes. If you learn of these situations, be compassionate to the person and support them with extra time if needed to deal with the moment. It is easy to be very distracted by these issues and find it difficult to be at work. During these moments, you can be a significant support factor to them and create a positive memory they will long remember and appreciate.

Recognize the positive contributions people make at work through public acknowledgement of appreciation. “Well done, nice job!” In contrast, and likely you already know this, never criticize or find fault of any kind with someone in a public setting. Doing so will instantly place you on the Virtual Bus to Loser-ville, never to return.

If you make an error, own it. And if it calls for a public apology, do it. You are a leader and a role model. And you make mistakes like all of us. You will be forgiven if you are sincere, recognize your role in the situation and regret your action.

At the end of your career, you will remember some of the major work events that you endured. And you may even miss some of the “action.” You will especially miss the relationships and the stories that accompany them. Every day you have the opportunity to build up or tear down someone’s day. Commit now to build the best with The Best and celebrate the success.

Encouragingly,
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