50 Ways to Show Your Appreciation to Employees

1. Nominate an employee for a Presidents Awards for Outstanding Service.
2. Support attendance at the Years of Service or Quarter Century Club program on their Service Anniversary.
3. Support volunteerism at McMaster by encouraging participation on a committee or project team.
4. Approve their time to attend a workplace wellness event or seminar.
5. Provide flexible working hours when possible.
6. Encourage a team member to organize a departmental fundraiser in support of McMaster's United Way Campaign.
7. Celebrate an individual or team success at a luncheon.
8. Organize a celebration for their birthday.
9. Have an early team meeting and sponsor breakfast.
10. Create a 'Board of Awesome' and post special accomplishments.
11. Mention special accomplishments in a staff meeting.
12. Say 'Thank you' – include their name and what you are thankful for.
13. Educate employees about McMaster's Inspiring from Within Professional Development conference. Encourage and support their attendance.
14. Have a one-on-one meeting - only talk about how awesome and helpful they have been.
15. Arrange for paid parking when they work outside their normal work hours.
16. Create a team trophy and have each employee present it to a different team member each week, indicating what they are being rewarded for. Keep track of each member's accomplishments and highlight them at the end of the year. Display the trophy and highlights.
17. Designate a work-study student to assist them for the whole week.
18. Send a recognition E-Card for a job well done.
19. Bring in homemade or store bought treats just to say thanks.
20. Support Canada's National Take Our Kids to Work Day – allowing employees to bring a grade 9 student to see what a great place McMaster is to learn and work!
21. Create a 'Brag Board' for employees to post work or personal messages about great things in their life.
22. Stock the kitchen with healthy snacks like apples, granola bars, yogurt, etc.
23. Always show respect.
24. Attach a happy face balloon to their workspace to show how their work positively affects everyone.
25. Give a 'You're special because' card.
26. Give someone a roll of lifesavers with a note attached saying – you are a lifesaver!
27. Support professional development by allowing attendance at workshops and conferences.
28. Copy your employee on an email you send to your manager raving about the work your employee does.
29. Mention special accomplishments in your departmental newsletter or on your website.
30. Acknowledge their service anniversary, every year!

31. Ask employees to present their work at an executive meeting.
32. Have a meeting over coffee… your treat.
33. Write them a thank you card.
34. Make rounds to your different teams just to show your support.
35. Send a thank you card to their house; thank the family for all of their long hours and hard work.
36. Chocolate. Enough said.
37. Have an employee lead a team meeting.
38. Allow employee to determine what they want to work on for their next project.
39. Initiate a 'Gracefully Handled Award' to a person who helps your department/team when it is in a tough situation.
40. Arrange for the VP to stop by a departmental meeting to thank an employee in person.
41. Give 'High Fives'.
42. Stick a Post – it note with a thank you on their computer screen.
43. Create a 'dress down day' for a more relaxed day at work.
44. Share information with employees.
45. Have a potluck once a month.
46. Involve employees in decisions that affect the team.
47. Increase their responsibility – showing you trust them with important matters.
48. Arrange a big group lunch (everyone pays for themselves) - just a time to network.
49. Ask an employee to share their accomplishment and teach it to other employees.
50. Smile. They're contagious.