

*Achieving Employee Retention and Engagement Goals Through IMPACTful Recognition*

Inspiring, Honoring, and Engaging Your Team Members

**Ceca Foundation**  
Celebrating Caregivers

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**Introduction**

**Nate Hamme**  
*President, Ceca Foundation*

*"To improve the human experience in care communities by honoring the work of exceptional caregivers."*



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**Objectives**

- Describe how employee recognition promotes joy, self-actualization, and engagement in healthcare professionals.
- Demonstrate why engaged healthcare employees provide better human experiences and quality of care.
- Identify essential best practices in the science of recognition that honor their team members and improve person-centered care.

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### Celebrating caregivers

- Ceca (*See -ka*) is a 501(c)3 public charity founded in memory of Mary Lawlor (pictured at right).
- Ceca celebrates caregiver excellence and quality care by providing partners with a unique peer-to-peer recognition and engagement program.
- Ceca's program focuses on "high-touch" acts of care, and complements existing recognition programs, such as tenure, employee-of-the-month, birthdays, etc.
- Ceca has been managing partner employee recognition programs since 2013, resulting in a wealth of data and many impactful and actionable insights.




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### Recognition in Achieving Organizational Excellence

- Healthcare Delivery - Reach Beyond the Expected**
  - Successful employee recognition programs integrate the 'people' side of health care with business outcomes, such as quality of care, patient satisfaction and increased retention
- Knowledge - Embrace New Learning**
  - Soliciting input from all stakeholders to help understand healthcare delivery from the perspective of consumers and source innovative ways to make an impact
- People Strategies - Lead with Your Heart**
  - Connect employees to their 'higher purpose' and reinforce your desired culture and values by recognizing and rewarding specific acts of care to show impact on the human experience
- Organizational Citizenship - Raise Your Voice**
  - Using all available channels to share stories of exceptional acts of care and build bridges between different communities in the care continuum
- Personal Leadership - Exemplify Excellence**
  - Utilizing employee recognition as a tool to shine light on service excellence that champions the mission; displays passion and dedication in care of clients and families; and is inspiring to others

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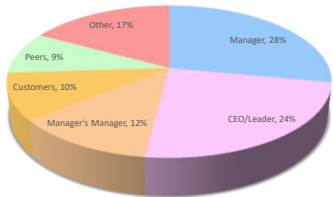
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### Who gave you your most meaningful recognition?




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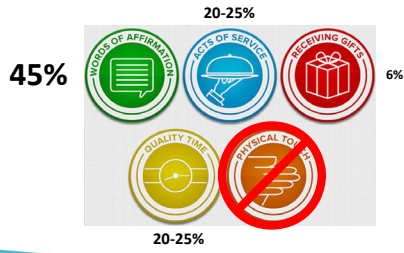
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### How do you most like to be recognized?




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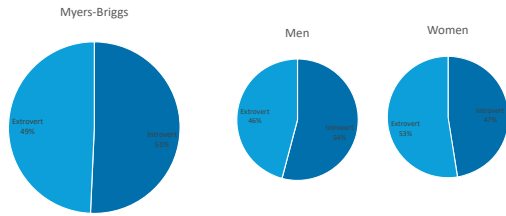
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### Large or Small? Surprised or Prepared?




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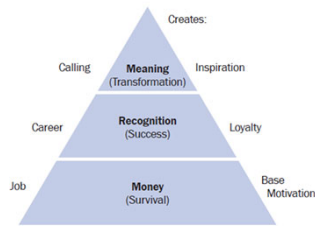
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### Recognition in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



The Employee Pyramid

Chip Conley, Creating "TEAC" Patient Experiences, The Beryl Institute (2011)

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## Engagement Defined

Engaged employees are willing to go above and beyond to solve problems – without being asked to do so. Engaged employees view their work as a calling and get a sense of fulfillment in working with teammates. They give maximum effort and strive to see their organizations succeed.

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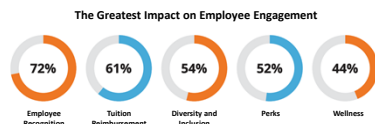
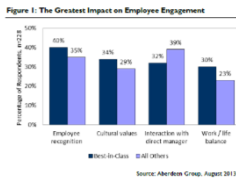
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## What Drives Employee Engagement?




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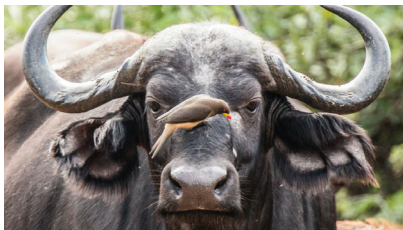
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## Symbiotic Engagement



Source: Press Ganey, Holleran Consulting Resident Engagement Index

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### Where Do We Stand With Caregiver Engagement?

Research shows that employee engagement in care settings is suffering, and there are significant benefits involved with deploying comprehensive recognition programs.

#### Current State

- The healthcare industry is ranked at the bottom for employee engagement
- Up to 70% of healthcare workers report being burned out due to the pandemic
- 63% of employees said they feel unappreciated, and 46% have left a job as a result
- 34% of nurses say it's 'very likely' that they'll leave their jobs by year-end, with one-third planning to leave the field entirely
- 25% of hospitals currently report critical staffing shortages, with RN turnover costing them as much as \$6.5M annually



#### Ideal State

- Teamwork, recognition, and organizational culture accepted as top engagement drivers
- Companies devote 1% or more of payroll toward recognition, with 85%+ seeing a positive impact on engagement
- Organizations commit to efforts to engage caregivers resulting in improvements in safety, quality, and the customer experience
- Companies ultimately save money by reducing turnover and stabilizing recruitment, hiring and training costs

Sources: Quantum Workplace 2018, McKinly 2021, OnePoll/Bonafide 2022, Incredible Health 2022, NAI Learning Solutions 2021, IHS 2012

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### “Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast”




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### Are you stuck on the employee recognition See-Saw?




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### The Good News (and the Bad)

*What you water, grows...*

**Ceca Award**  
Celebrating Caregivers

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### How Do I Go From 0-360?

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### Where Do You Already Receive Feedback?

- From the "horse's mouth" (your clients)?
  - "Suggestion" boxes, comment cards, newsletter responses/links
  - Comment phone lines/voicemails
  - Resident admissions/welcome packets
  - Discharge forms/surveys
  - Resident/Family Council meetings or other engagement forums
- From your team members?
  - Links on internal or external facing web or review sites
  - Annual/periodic employee evaluations (take notes!)
  - Human Resources
  - Employee of the month nomination forms/spot recognition cards

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**Best Practices—the Science of Employee Recognition**

When building a recognition program for your teams, think about...

# I-M-P-A-C-T

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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**Inclusive**

- “For anyone, from anyone”*
- Across job roles and regardless of visibility
- Across demographics

# I-M-P-A-C-T

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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**Mission-Oriented**

- “Reflecting your values and priorities”*
- Integrated into your organization
- Supported by your leadership teams

# I-M-P-A-C-T

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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**Public**

- “Visible to all stakeholders”
- Helps to ‘connect-the-dots’
- Allows for leadership servitude

I-M-P-A-C-T




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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**Authentic**

- “Never cookie-cutter”
- Specific—who did what when for whom?
- Personalized to the individual

I-M-P-A-C-T




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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**Consistent**

- “Culture is an every day endeavor”
- Do it frequently
- Do it across the employee lifecycle

“Employee [recognition] should be frequent – Gallup recommends every seven days – and timely to ensure that the employee knows the significance of the recent achievement and to reinforce company values.”

I-M-P-A-C-T

Source: Gallup, 2016




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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**Timely**

- "At the point of impact"
- Immediate gratification for good deeds
- Clarity on the act or behavior

**I-M-P-A-C-T**




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**Best Practices for Employee Recognition**

**BONUS ROUND!**

- "Thank the Thankers"
- You'll get more of what you want—exceptional stories!

**I-M-P-A-C-T**




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**COVID Has Disrupted Employee Appreciation**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for tech-forward and virtual solutions to a wide array of key business processes and initiatives in the human services world.

*Employee recognition is no different.*




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### Can Technology Work For You?

**• Benefits**

- Centralization
- Automation
- Visibility
- Remote and "sterile"
- Measurable



**• Pitfalls**

- Training
- Upkeep/maintenance
- COST

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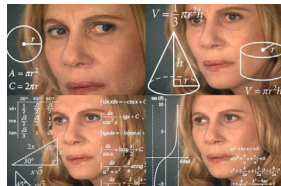
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### More Technology?

- Small Investment, Small Tech
  - Paper based and multi-point collection
  - Email repository for aggregation
- Medium Investment, Medium Tech
  - Web form on a hosted site/Google Forms
  - Database storage of nominations
- Large Investment, Large Tech
  - Platform-based and multi-directional with automated, custom segmented systems
  - "All singing, all dancing"




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### Why Peer-to-Peer?

Peer-to-peer [recognition] is **35.7% more likely** to have a **positive impact** on financial results than manager-only recognition.

**41% of companies** that use peer-to-peer recognition have seen marked positive **increases in customer satisfaction.**

Sources: SHRM/Globeforce Employee Recognition Survey, 2012

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### Technology Can Help You Take Off All the Hats!



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### Kids these days...

*“Millennials prefer instant feedback... With today’s mobile workforce and the popularity of social media, turning to web-based recognition technology makes sense for organizations across industries.”*



Source: PwCCheck.com

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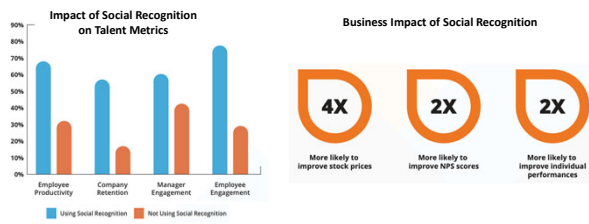
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### Technology Makes Recognition Social



Source: Aptitude Research Partners, Hire, Engage, and Retain Study 2018, n=522

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## AHCA National Quality Awards and Recognition

### AHCA Silver Quality Award Requirements

AHCA member quality awards can help you appeal to consumers. For organizations considering applying for the Silver or Gold Quality Awards, the Ceca Award or other recognition initiatives would help meet the requirements for performance excellence.

- » Criteria 5.1a – *How do you build an effective and supportive workforce environment?*
  - A supportive environment might include formal and informal recognition.
- » Criteria 5.2b – *How does your performance management system support high performance and workforce engagement?*
  - Performance management systems include compensation, recognition, and related reward and incentive practices. Recognition can include monetary and nonmonetary, formal and informal, and individual and group mechanisms.




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## We Are Not Alone...




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## Any Questions?

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