



How to Retain Staff: Give Out Your Cell Number



Securing and retaining healthcare staff is an increasing pressure in a competitive environment where the pool of skilled workers is decreasing.

It is not only clinicians who are hard to get and keep on board. HIT professionals are in high demand as the digital hospital environment expands and related security issues and data breaches dominate healthcare headlines.

One of the oldest healthcare systems in the U.S., Geisinger Health System has just launched an ambitious recruitment drive for 1, 500 staff members across departments. In a [FierceHealthcare](#) report, Human Resources execs speak about how they are succeeding at this in the seriously competitive world of healthcare recruitment.

Julene Champion, Geisinger's vice president of talent management, says getting and keeping the best goes beyond job postings.

"We are going back to our referrals and boomerangs. The person who was here who left a year ago and reaching out to see how the new job is going and tell them about all the great things that have been going on here," she says.

See Also: [10 Principles of Strategic Leadership And How to Retain Leaders](#)

A culture of care is one of the most important factors in making a healthcare facility a place where employees want to work. Champion says that [Geisinger](#) President and CEO David T. Feinberg, MD has made it his business to let staff know their experience is just as valuable as patients'.

"You can give out bonuses, trinkets, t-shirts and key chains. But at the end of the day people want to be listened to and feel valued, respected and cared for by their colleagues and the leadership team."

One of the first things Feinberg did was to give out his personal cell number to every staff member and let them know they could call him any time. They do and Campion says this has made staff feel more empowered in decision-making.

Long-term workplace planning strategy also makes a difference says Campion. A five-year pilot financial and talent programme at Geisinger is taking into account expected growth, market share, number of patients and future needed volume of providers.

This predictive model will help determine future employee need and how long it will take to get them on board.

Campion adds that by bringing in both human resources and chief talent officers into planning discussions, Geisinger will become more strategic in securing and keeping top professionals.

Source: [FierceHealthCare](#)

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