

Celebration brainstorming

Comments to the facilitator	Participants will hear and discuss the rationale for celebrations and recognition.
Time	First of two meetings, 30 minutes each.
Supplies	Varies. Tables for small-group seatings.
Preparation	About a week before the first meeting, provide a copy of the lead article in this issue to meeting participants. Ask them to read the article.
<p>On the meeting day, arrange the room to invite free discussion. The atmosphere should be informal and relaxed. Arrange small groups of individuals from across grades and subject areas.</p>	
Directions	
<p>1. Tell participants they are going to discuss the importance of stopping periodically to congratulate each other for a job well done. Tell them the goal of the meeting is to structure celebrations and recognitions into the school year.</p>	
<p>2. Initiate discussion by saying something like this: "I'm sure all of you have memories of special times when you were recognized for your work — and because of the person who recognized you or because of the timing of the recognition, it had tremendous impact." Then, share your favorite celebration or recognition.</p>	
<p>3. Ask participants to take a few moments to reflect on one of those special memories. Allow one minute for this.</p>	
<p>4. At the end of the minute, invite participants to share their memories with others at their tables. Allow two to three minutes for this.</p>	
<p>5. At the end of that time, pose this question: "If you could plan a celebration or recognition for all of us this year, what would it celebrate? When would it occur? What impact would it have?" Allow a few minutes for each group to brainstorm.</p>	
<p>6. Directions for the second meeting are on p. 7.</p>	