THANK YOUR BOSS!

by Connie Rudolph, Groundskeeper, Midway Stadium

Thank You matters. Remember that positive feeling you had at the end of the 1998 STMA Conference? Remember those ideas you were just itching to incorporate into your program? The cost-cutting technique you worked into your budget? The great contacts you made? No wonder your schedule includes the 1999 Conference this January!

But wait – who else knows how much you gained? Did you thank your boss for making it possible for

you to attend? Did you let him (or her) know how your attendance impacted your program?

I appreciate the opportunity for professional development the Conference provides, and I want my boss to know it. So, I write a thank you note.

I understand that my Conference attendance is an investment in me and my program. Included in that thank you note is a brief summary of the Conference highlights with special emphasis on site visits to facilities similar to my own and on educational sessions that could apply to my situation. I spell out how I could apply that information to my work. I also include tips I picked up that could save money at my site. I take a camera and include photos with the note if they can help illustrate an idea I'm planning to incorporate. I also mention some of the key contacts I've made at the Conference, and note all the opportunities for networking it provides.

I make sure to say thank you a few times for allowing me to take the trip and that I think it was money well spent.

My boss has told me he really appreciates this feedback. He has control over many people and makes the final decision on which Conferences and other educational opportunities each should attend. All too often, he has no idea how that function went and whether or not it was beneficial to the individual and to our overall program. Knowing that the investment was worthwhile makes a difference in his decision for allocation of funds and personnel time for the next Conference. Thank you matters.

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