

# Workforce Strategies in HTM-Recruiting, Recognition and Retention (3R's)

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## Izabella Gieras, CCE, CSSBB

- ▶ Currently the Director of Clinical Engineering at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Beverly Hills, CA
- ▶ Worked as the Director of Clinical Engineering with ARAMARK Healthcare/Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY; Director of Technology Management at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI
- ▶ Past President of ACCE (American College of Clinical Engineering)
- ▶ Fellow of ACCE, AAMI
- ▶ Certified Clinical Engineer (CCE)
- ▶ Holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, M.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Connecticut and an MBA from Walsh College in MI



## Donald Armstrong, CHTM, CBET, CABT

- ▶ Currently at Renovo Solutions as Manager of Technical Training
- ▶ 41 years as a Biomed, many of those in the OR
- ▶ Get to share my gift of servanthood daily
- ▶ Love the HTM Field and what it has meant to me and my family.
- ▶ Have worked at Stanford Health Care, UCSF, GE Healthcare
- ▶ On Facility with AAMI teaching CBET Prep.
- ▶ CBET, CHTM, CABT
- ▶ AAMI, TMC, Editorial Board BIT
- ▶ Past President of HTMA Texas
- ▶ CABMET, CMIA, HTMA Texas

# Session Description

The **Healthcare Technology Management (HTM)** community continues to face staffing challenges with attracting and retaining qualified workforce. This challenge has prompted many of the HTM Leaders to think outside the box and reevaluate their current workforce strategies.

The presenters will share insights on their strategies to best optimize the current as well as incoming staff to support the ever-increasing scope of work and pressure on cost reductions.

The presenters will also address some creative ideas to partner with local colleges, professional organizations as well as each other to support these initiatives.

# Session Objectives



## Audience participants will

- Leverage experience, resources and applied practices to support current initiatives.
- Learn new strategies to overcome presented challenges.
- Develop a collaborative network of other leaders in the field.

# Agenda

- **Background – Landscape in 3R's**
  - Past
  - Present
  - Future
- **Our HTM Programs**
  - In House
  - Third Party
- **Share your experiences**



# Past Landscape in 3R's

## Recruiting

A large candidate pool

## Retention

Stay until retirement

## Recognition

Thank you!

Regular paycheck



# Present Landscape in 3R's

## Recruiting

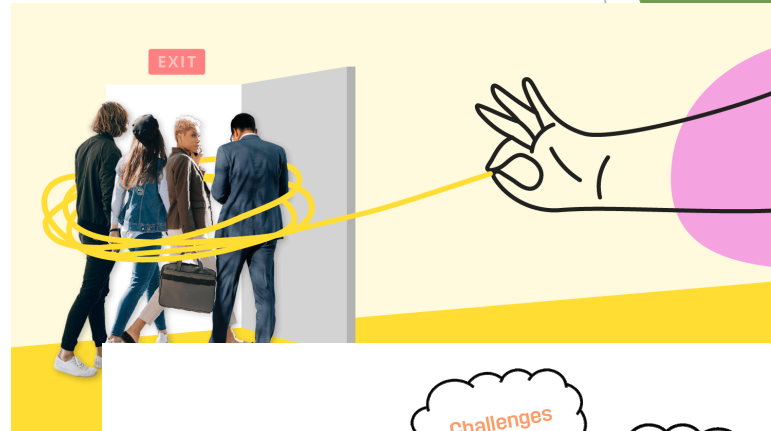
Challenging due to lots of options with open positions

## Retention

Challenging with short tenure

## Recognition

Challenging with high expectations





# Future Landscape in 3R's

## Recruiting

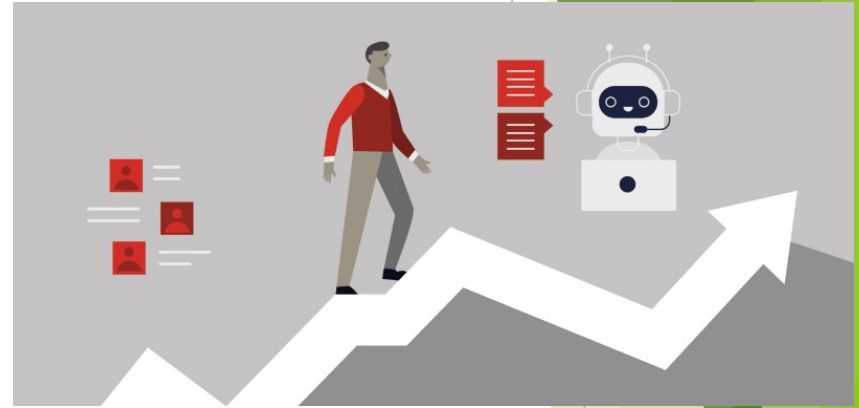
Predictive analytics on global scale  
and AI

## Retention

Large retention incentives

## Recognition

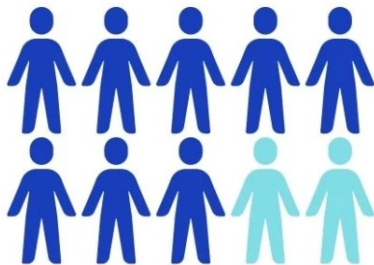
High rewards with fast promotions



94%

of employees would stay longer if their company invested in their professional development

Source: LinkedIn Workplace Report



Source: Owl Labs

84% of employees shared that working remotely would make them happier.

HiringThing™

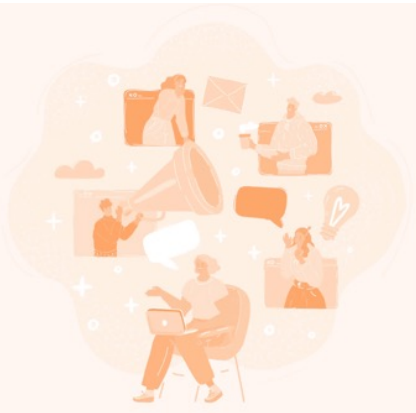
98%

of employees said they wouldn't work for a company whose values didn't align with theirs.

via City of London Economic Research

4.1 YEARS

is the average time an employee stays with an employer.

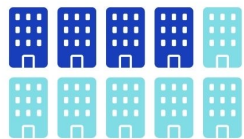


McKinsey

40%

of employees who left jobs last year did so within the first six months.

HiringThing™



42%

of employees seeking new work didn't feel like their company was maximizing their abilities and skills.

HiringThing™

Source: Deloitte

57%

of employees have quit a job because of a poor relationship with their manager





**Izabella Gieras**

# Affiliation – Cedars-Sinai/Huntington Health

## Huntington Hospital Affiliation with Cedars-Sinai Becomes Official

Published on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 | 12:18 pm



The affiliation between [Huntington Hospital](#) and [Cedars-Sinai Health System](#) became official Wednesday, with the completion of the appropriate regulatory approvals. The affiliation will strengthen Huntington's long-term commitment to providing affordable, accessible, high-quality care to the San Gabriel Valley.



Extract from Pasadena Now, online

# Cedars-Sinai Medical Center - Clinical Engineering



- ▶ Located in Beverly Hills, CA
- ▶ Licensed for 889 beds
- ▶ Over 14,000 employees
- ▶ 91,014 patients seen in the ED annually
- ▶ Over 32,000 surgeries annually
- ▶ Over 105 anesthesia locations
- ▶ 4500+ end user computing devices
- ▶ 34 members strong (BMETs, CEs, Imaging Specialists, Manager, Director, Support Staff)
  - ▶ Over 33,000 medical devices
  - ▶ Reports to Enterprise Information Services

# Huntington Health - Clinical Technology



- ▶ Located in Pasadena, CA
- ▶ Level II Trauma Center with 619 licensed beds
- ▶ Bariatric & Stroke Center
- ▶ 18 Operating Rooms
- ▶ 3 DaVinci Robotic Systems
- ▶ 6 Cath Labs & IR Suites
- ▶ 6500+ personnel
- ▶ 300+ applications
- ▶ 4500+ end user computing devices
- ▶ Affiliate of the Cedars-Sinai Health System
- ▶ 12 members strong (BMETs, CE, Manager, Director, Support Staff)
  - ▶ Over 10,000 medical devices
  - ▶ Reports to Enterprise Information Services

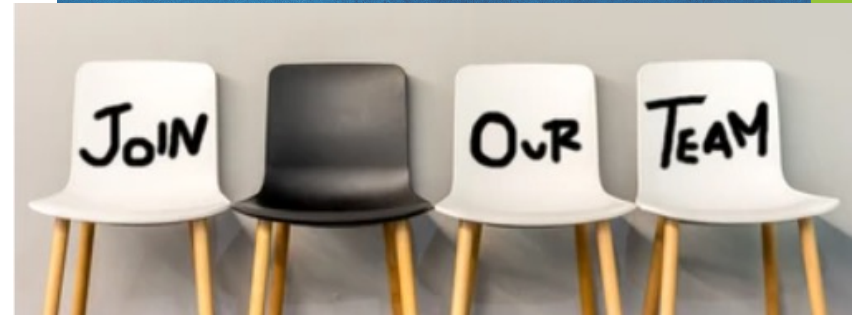
# Current Landscape

- Open positions
- Turnover
  - Short tenures, tracking < 1 year tenure
  - Mass Exodus
  - Diminished morale
- External impact
  - Open positions, lead to lots of choices
  - Competitive pay, benefits and other incentives
- High cost of living
  - Leads to long distance to work, impacts work life balance



# Recruiting

- Match right title and JD to the position
- Partner with your recruiter
  - Develop a sound marketing campaign
  - Job fairs
  - Regular check in with your recruiter
- Outside recruiters
- Partnership with a local school, OJT
- Internships

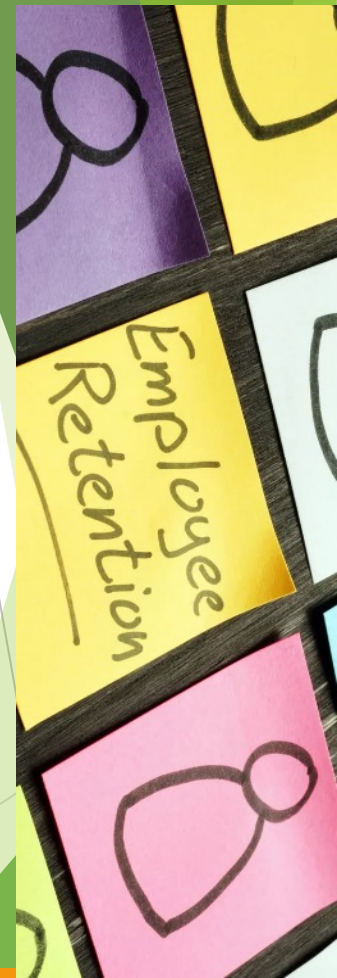
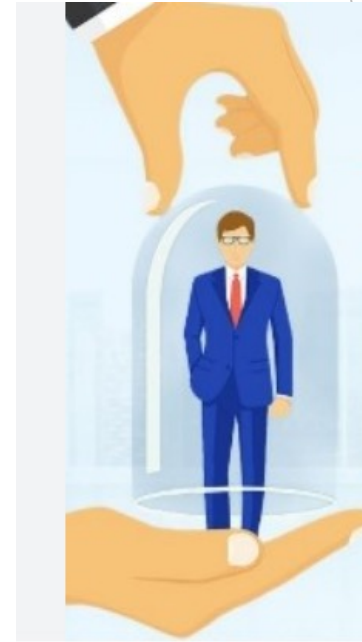


Discovering the Possibilities



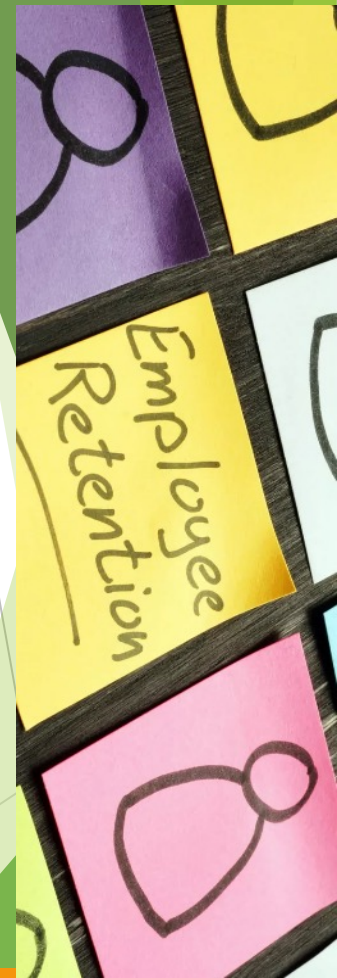
# Retention

- Motivate and Inspire
  - Emotional and mental support
- Strategic career path
  - Promote from within
- Bonuses
- Education/Licenses support
- Professional training



# Retention cont.

- Access to conferences, local organizations
- Competitive pay, benefits and other incentives
  - Annual salary benchmarking
- Wellness incentives
- Diversity emphasis
- Regular surveys to gather feedback
- Open communication
  - Set expectations
- Flexibility



# Why is Employee Retention Important?

- Cost of turnover
- Loss of company knowledge
- Interruption of operations
- Turnover often leads to more turnover
  - Decreased morale
  - Impact on productivity
- Regaining efficiency
  - May lead to restructure



# Recognition

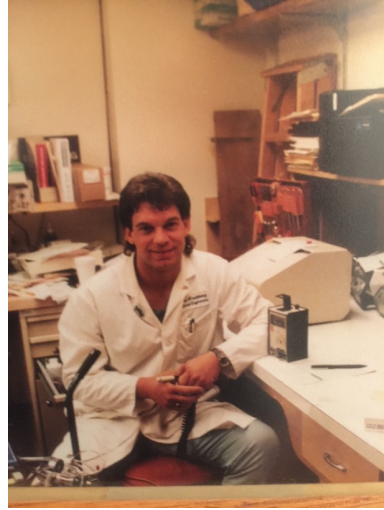
- Regular awards, public recognition
  - “Employee of the Month”
  - Peer recognition
- Personal THANK YOU cards
- See what your employees like – human interaction
  - Celebrate b-days with a cake, card
- Become good friends with your HR business partner



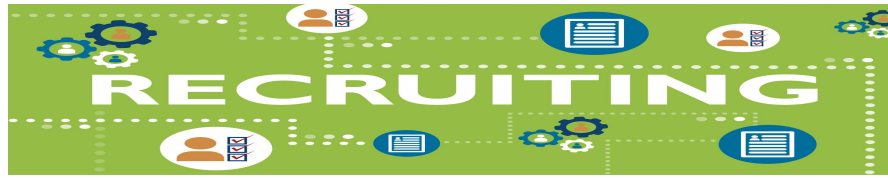
# Recognition cont.

- On the spot bonuses for good work
- Retention bonuses
- Celebrate completed certificates, degrees, etc
- Annual family picnic
- Holiday luncheon
- Decorate the dept for major holidays





**Donald Armstrong**



It is difficult to attract new talent

Entry points into the profession

Finding Entry-level BioMed

Hiring Leaders/Managers is a challenge

Expand our field of candidates

Look for people with related experiences

Find talent from existing employees

Start searching for employees early

Attending job fairs

Meet new talent at Conferences



Discovering the Possibilities

# Recruitment strategies

Change entry-level technicians' required qualifications

Change Job Descriptions if needed

Add an Associate Biomed or apprentice position

Offer training for new managers

Look for qualified people in other similar professions

Offer sign-on bonuses

Provide promotional information

Provide incentives for advancing their careers (Certifications, Tuition Assistance)





# Recognition



Find out how each employee likes to be recognized (in public or in private)

I have found a handwritten note goes a long way

Try to recognize whenever anyone specifically goes far and above

Do not recognize someone for simply doing their job, you want to make the recognition special.

Have gift cards available to present when you notice someone doing something special (it could even be if you see someone helping someone who is lost in the hospital)

A culture of appreciation is more important than ever. In fact, employees are [five times more likely to stay](#) with an organization when they are recognized for their efforts.

You want to recognize positive behavior to encourage more of that in the organization.

"People work for money but go the extra mile for recognition, praise and rewards."

Dale Carnegie



# Recognition Examples



Be intentional about Recognition (be authentic but notice if you haven't recognized someone in a bit)



If you notice someone going the extra mile, make sure you recognize them ASAP (it will encourage great behavior and will let them know you are noticing)



Every chance you get to recognize someone. Even if they are not in your department



Try the Handwritten note, it is great for both the giver and the receiver



Find out how other managers recognize their employees

*"The deepest craving of human nature is the need to be appreciated."*

- William James

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POWER QUOTES

# Employee Retention

## How to Improve Employee Retention



The act of retaining what you have or putting a bit more professionally, *Employee retention refers to the strategies organizations use to prevent employees from leaving.*

Find and research what encourages people to stay (what would make them stay)

Conduct STAY interviews to identify why people stay and what will it take for them to stay longer. Have specific and actionable questions.

If you notice someone is not fitting in, you should try to find out why

Find out why staff would rather leave than stay (either pay or negative work environment) Conduct exit interviews if possible

It is difficult and expensive to acquire new team members

# Employee Retention Examples

Be an authentic leader

You can be friendly with your staff (don't keep arms length)

People stay if they feel connected with their managers

It does matter if your staff has a close friend at work (it could be you)

Dedicate yourself to your staff's development

It is a must that you know your staff

Make it clear that you care about your staff as people

Ask long-term staff members why they stay on



Discovering the Possibilities

# Employee Satisfaction, onboarding and training is a great start

► Phase III Graduates 2023



● Phase I Graduates 2024



Discovering the Possibilities

# The 3 R's Misc Thoughts

Hire for Attitude and educate and train the skills

If people do not leave that does not mean everything is all good (always room to improve)

Don't assume people leave because of money (most leave because of a poor relationship with leadership)

Recognize and promoting works best to retain employees

Do the best you can for each employee (money-wise)

Be honest and transparent with your staff

“People are not your most important asset. The right people are.”

*Jim Collins*



## EMPLOYEE RETENTION

Retention programs are much cheaper and much easier than *Replacement* programs.

Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary.

**-Margaret Cousins**

# Share Your Experiences



Discovering the Possibilities

# References

AAMI's HTM Retention Survey

AAMI's Best Practices in HTM Retention

CHOOSE A JOB  
YOU LOVE AND  
YOU WILL NEVER  
HAVE TO WORK  
A DAY IN YOUR  
LIFE.

*Confucius*







Discovering the Possibilities