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VIDEO - Our Recent Presentation at the Chicago Booth Entrepreneurial Roundtable

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If you have 90 minutes to spare, I have something that's a great use of your time when it comes to expanding your understanding of the payoff of employee engagement and workplace team building activities.

Below is a video of our President's presentation last month at an Entrepreneurial Roundtable hosted by the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

If you can't see the video in your RSS reader, [Cheap Accutane](#) click here.

The presentation kicks off with our own Gaye van den Hombergh explaining why companies should care about creating great workplaces (starting at 7:30) and the qualities we see as critical to Winning Workplaces, along with some of the people practices used by winners of our 2010 Top Small Company Workplaces award, which were featured in the June issue of Inc. Magazine (starting at 29:00).

Starting at 44:00, Gaye led a panel featuring leaders of this year's two Chicago area winners: Marvin Klein, Founder, PortionPac Chemical Corporation; and Tom Walter, President & CEO and Tasty Catering. As you absorb the lessons learned and insights of these two leaders, consider their workplace culture practices, which I've listed below respectively, that have led them to success – even in this tough economy:

PortionPac

Selected workplace best practices:

- Offers personal and financial support for employees on a case by case basis
 - "Front to Back Day"
 - Offers experience to improve personal confidence and communication skills
 - Employees have a high degree of autonomy

Business results:

- 2009 revenue up 7% from 2008
- Over the same period their competitors suffered double digit losses

Tasty Catering

Selected workplace best practices:

- Personal financial crisis fund fed into by employees
- Healthy free meals provided to staff on a daily basis
- If an employee comes up with idea and is willing to put in the effort, the company will help finance and support the endeavor

Business results:

- While sales fell in 2009 vs. 2008, it experienced only half the decrease of its industry and remains profitable
- High average employee tenure of 7.5 years

What are your takeaways from watching this video?

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