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**Champion Your Organization with Employee Learning Week 2021!**

On behalf of the ATD Communications department, we encourage your organization to use Employee Learning Week, December 6-10, 2021, as an opportunity to showcase the value of workplace learning.

Our communications toolkit with has resources to help you recognize the week as outlined below.

As an added bonus, if your company recognizes Employee Learning Week through an event, meeting, official proclamation or communication to members, we will send you a “Champion of Learning” certificate. **All you need to do is** [**fill out the form on td.org/elw**](https://www.td.org/elw) **and send us a note (****elw@td.org****) with any supporting materials. And, anything counts!** Whether you decide to participate in the week with an awards event, an email to colleagues, or a mention of it on your website—just let us know what your organization did to recognize the week, and the certificate is yours!

If you have any questions or would like to request additional materials for Employee Learning Week, please email the ATD Communications department at elw@td.org. We appreciate your involvement in the campaign and look forward to working with your

company!

-ATD Communications Department

**Overview and FAQs – Employee Learning Week 2021**

Last year, many ATD members showcased their employee learning programs by holding meetings and events, or by sending special communications during Employee Learning Week. Several ATD chapters participated in the campaign last year by soliciting the enactment of state and local proclamations to recognize the week. Many companies enlisted community partners, educational institutions, local government officials, and business leaders to participate in the week.

**START PLANNING NOW!**

To help your organization plan for Employee Learning Week 2021, here is background information on the ELW campaign:

* **Why** is Employee Learning Week important? By participating in the campaign, your organization can shine the spotlight on the value of employee learning and the important connection between developing talent in your organization and achieving business success.
* **Who** recognizes Employee Learning Week? All organizations are encouraged to showcase their employee learning programs during the week, December 6-10, 2021.
* **Where** can Employee Learning Week happen? Any location will work. All chapters, groups and/or organizations are welcome to recognize the week in their community by holding an event, special meeting, or sending communications to your members or employees.

**What materials are available for ELW 2021?**

* Press release template
* Proclamation templates and guidelines
* Media talking points
* Downloadable logos, web banners, and social media graphics

Questions about the information provided in the Employee Learning Week Toolkit? Email the ATD Communications department at elw@td.org.

**Media Tips and Talking Points**

While your organization or chapter is making plans to promote Employee Learning Week locally, you may want to contact business or workplace reporters at your local paper to discuss your planned activities and events. As you prepare for this outreach, here are some tips from the ATD Communications department.

**Know your media.** Research the reporter, media type, and intended audience to learn more about the topics that the paper and reporter usually cover. This will give you an idea of the angle you want to take when pitching the reporter.

**Provide facts and resources.** Develop a fact sheet or press release template and include all relevant information about your ELW plans. Be sure to designate someone as the point of contact so that the reporter knows whom to call in the future.

**Connect to ATD information and resources.** Many of the ATD Employee Learning Week materials are available online so that you can download or print copies of the brochures and postcards and adapt the ideas on the local level.

Included below is sample language that you may want to use when working with the media.

(Your chapter/organization name) is planning activities (or an event) during ATD Employee Learning Week, December 6-10, 2021. This is an opportunity for organizations to highlight the important connection between learning and achieving organizational results. We encourage our local media to cover the activities and events or write a story about the importance of employee learning and development.

The sponsoring organization of Employee Learning Week is ATD, the Association for Talent Development, the world’s largest association dedicated to those who develop talent in organizations. The (chapter name) represents learning and performance professionals in the (city/town information here). (*Add more about your local chapter here.*)

(Your organization name) is holding (event/activities) on (date/time) at (location). Last year, nearly 100 organizations and ATD chapters recognized Employee Learning Week through events, meetings, and communication with members. Several ATD chapters recognized the week through Employee Learning Week proclamations in their city, county, or state.

**Press Release Template for Employee Learning Week**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Name

Phone

Email

**(*Name of Chapter / Organization*) To Recognize Employee Learning Week 2021**

**(*City, state*) Date** – To increase awareness about the strategic value of learning in organizations, the Association for Talent Development (ATD) has declared December 6-10, 2021, as “**Employee Learning Week**.” This is an opportunity for organizations to showcase the important link between developing employees’ skills and achieving organizational results.

ATD research shows that organizations continue to invest in growing the knowledge and skills of their workforce. “Increasingly, business leaders realize that the most important asset in our knowledge economy is talent, and a skilled workforce is the key to realizing results. We encourage all organizations to demonstrate their commitment to learning by recognizing Employee Learning Week,” says Tony Bingham, ATD President and CEO.

 *(Add an optional paragraph describing how your chapter or organization will recognize Employee Learning Week.*)

To learn more about the (*chapter/organization name here*) recognition of Employee Learning Week, contact (*contact name and email*). For more information about ATD Employee Learning Week 2021, visit [www.td.org/elw](http://www.td.org/elw), or email to elw@td.org.

About ATD

The Association for Talent Development (ATD) is the world’s largest professional membership organization supporting those who develop the knowledge and skills of employees, improve performance, and help to achieve results for the organizations they serve. Originally established in 1943, the association was previously known as the American Society for Training & Development (ASTD).

ATD’s members come from more than 120 countries and work in public and private organizations in every industry sector. ATD supports talent development professionals who gather locally in volunteer-led U.S. chapters and international member networks, and with international strategic partners.

For more information, visit td.org.

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**Suggested Steps for Proclamation for Employee Learning Week 2021**

In past years, several ATD chapters worked with local officials to request a proclamation of Employee Learning Week in their town, city, county, or state. Organizations can request proclamations too. Since every locality’s requirements are different, there is not a defined set of steps to follow. However, here are a few reminders or hints that may be helpful when requesting a proclamation:

* The first step is to visit the website of your locality to determine if proclamation requests are accepted, the timeline for making requests, and the information that must be included. Depending on the locality, requests may be directed to an elected official (a Mayor’s office, for example) or a governing body (city/county council). You may need to email the local government’s office for more information if you do not find what you are looking for on the website.
* Most ATD chapters will probably make a request within their town, county, or city. If a chapter is located in the state capital and wants to send a request to the state governor, it may be beneficial to make the request on behalf of ATD chapters and members in the entire state, not just the capital city. If you choose to do this, be sure to communicate with the chapter presidents in your state in advance so that they are aware of your intent to make the request. Even though your request may be made on behalf of several chapters, be sure to identify one person on the chapter board as a point of contact. Make your request early and within the required timeframe. Some localities ask that proclamation requests are done 60 or 90 days in advance, and some may be longer.
* Use the templates we provide as sample language and remember that one size doesn’t fit all! While we hope these items are helpful, they are not prescriptive. Your town, county, or city may require additional information. Your best bet: do the necessary homework, find out what is required, determine one point of contact in your chapter, and provide useful background information when asked.

**Questions about the information provided for Employee Learning Week?** Email the ATD Communications department at elw@td.org.

**Sample Request Letter for a Proclamation**

Date
Attention: Person or Official’s Name
Title
Office of the (*Official Title*)
Address
City, State, Zip Code

Dear (*Name*),

The Association for Talent Development (ATD), the world’s largest association dedicated to those who develop talent in organizations field, is celebrating **December 6-10, 2021** as **Employee** **Learning Week** to recognize the value of learning and the important link between a knowledgeable, highly skilled workforce and organizational success. ATD members come from more than 120 countries and thousands of organizations.

On behalf of (your company), we would like (*insert local official’s name and title, for example, “Mayor Smith”*) to consider this request to proclaim EmployeeLearning Week in (*insert town, city, or state name here*). Included with this package is additionalbackground information about ATD and the Employee Learning Week campaign, as well as suggestedlanguage for a proclamation.

If you have questions about (*your organization name here*) or Employee Learning Week, please feel free to contact me by phone or email (*insert your contact* *information*). Thank you for taking time to consider this request. We appreciate your help in showcasing the value of employee learning and its connection to the success of our (*local*) companies and their long-term competitiveness and vitality.

Best regards,

*Your Name
Your Title
Company Nam*e

**Sample Language for ATD Employee Learning Week 2021 Proclamation**

**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, the organizations of **(*town, city, or chapter name*)** are committed to creating a highly skilled workforce that is critical to growing and sustaining a competitive advantage;

**WHEREAS,** they recognize that having a knowledgeable, skilled workforce improves the performance of those organizations;

**WHEREAS**, learning develops individual and organizational knowledge and expertise;

**WHEREAS,** the Association for Talent Development (ATD)–-the world’s largest association dedicated to those who develop talent in organizations –-has declared December 6-10, 2021, as “Employee Learning Week” and designated this time for organizations to recognize the value of employee learning;

**WHEREAS,** the **(*organization’s name)*** in **(*town, city, state*)** has demonstrated its commitment to developing the skills of employees and the workforce;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, **(*name*), (*title*)** of **(*town, city, or chapter name*)** do hereby proclaim December 6-10, 2021 as

EMPLOYEE LEARNING WEEKin **(*town, city, or state name*)** AND …
(*OPTIONAL AREA FOR INCLUDING ADDITIONAL LOCAL INFORMATION*)