

Practical Gifts Show Workplace Appreciation in a Tight Economy

Sodexo's Esteem Pass program offers unique options for Administrative Professionals Day, April 22

GAITHERSBURG, Md., March 30, 2009 - Today's troublesome economy might make it difficult to justify flowers or company-paid lunches - traditional ways to honor support staff on Administrative Professionals Day. This April 22nd, Sodexo encourages employers to think about an Esteem Pass incentive gift card as a more tangible and practical way to reward hard work and loyalty.

"It's more important than ever to recognize employees who are helping your business succeed during a tough economy," said Vincent Hillenmeyer, President, Sodexo Pass USA. "Gift cards are becoming popular for all kinds of giving opportunities and are very practical for a workplace setting and are proven morale-boosters."

Hillenmeyer added that gift card programs can be the foundation of a company's reward program and help establish a culture of recognition, which is a cornerstone of employee engagement.

Esteem Pass is a corporate gift with limitless flexibility. One card is accepted at a network of leading popular retailers totalling more than 20,000 locations, from apparel and restaurants to home improvement options. This gives each employee/recipient the option of shopping at one of their favorite stores and purchasing a little luxury or a practical present. Cards are offered in amounts from \$10 to \$500.

Employers can also customize the card with a special message, corporate logo, or the recipient's name reinforcing the significance of their reward. Whether you are purchasing a few cards or thousands, we offer competitive pricing and a number of payment methods.

To learn more visit www.EsteemPass.com or contact one of our recognition specialists at 888.663.4437 or via email at sales.sodexopass.usa@sodexo.com.

About Sodexo in North America and Sodexo Pass

Sodexo in North America (www.sodexoUSA.com) is a leading integrated food and facilities management services company in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with \$7.3 billion (USD) in annual revenue and 120,000 employees. Sodexo in North America serves more than ten million customers daily in corporations, health care, long term care and retirement centers, schools, college campuses, government and remote sites. Sodexo in North America, headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., is a member of Sodexo Group, which owns and operates Sodexo Pass. Sodexo in North America funds the Sodexo Foundation, an independent charitable organization that, since its founding in 1999, has made more than \$11 million in

grants to fight hunger in America.

Sodexo Pass, currently ranked second in the world in the prepaid card sector, offers meal and food vouchers, childcare vouchers, prepaid gift cards across 30 countries with additional tailored gift programs in 24 countries.

About Sodexo

[Sodexo](#), founded in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, is a world leader in Food and Facilities Management services, with more than 342,380 employees on 29,000 sites in 80 countries as of August 31, 2007. For Fiscal 2007, which closed August 31, 2007, SODEXO had revenues of 13.4 billion euro. Listed on Euronext Paris, the Group has a current market capitalization of 6.8 billion euro.

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