



press room

Surveys



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUMAN RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS RECENTLY SURVEYED ABOUT GOSSIP AND RUMOR IN THE WORKPLACE

Gossip and water-cooler type chats viewed more of a problem than a benefit

Norwalk, CT. --- (October 21, 2004) --- In a survey of HR professionals, fifty-five percent of the respondents reported that gossip and rumor were a problem in the workplace compared to fourteen percent viewing them as a benefit. The survey was conducted by ERC Dataplus, a leading HR technology company, and *Human Resource Executive* magazine. Thirty-one percent of the respondents were undecided, suggesting that it may be viewed as either depending on the nature of the discussion.

Respondents were asked to define the types of benefits and problems caused by gossip and rumor. On the benefit side, fifty-one percent of the respondents identified "bonding with coworkers", followed by forty-seven percent indicating "relieving stress", forty percent saying "developing and maintaining relationships", "spreading information" by thirty-four percent and "building support networks" reported by twenty-six percent.

Ninety-five percent of the survey respondents reported that "distribution of misinformation" was the biggest problem resulting from gossip and rumor. That was followed by "lower productivity" identified by sixty-nine percent of respondents, equally "lack of trust" and "lower employee morale" by fifty-eight percent, "wrongful expectations" by fifty-five percent, and "stress for employees" and "hurt feelings" equally by fifty-one percent of the respondents.

The results of the entire survey may be seen by going to www.erccdataplus.com/hrexecutive/results.htm.

ERC Dataplus and *Human Resource Executive* poll HR and affiliated professionals on a different topic each month. October's survey addresses questions affecting the 'Economic Outlook for 2005'. To participate, go to www.erccdataplus.com/hrexecutive/. The results of September's survey will be posted on the website in October and reported in the magazine in November.

About ERC Dataplus

Since 1994, ERC has been providing Fortune 1000 employers with hourly and exempt recruiting and tracking solutions. ERC designed its system, Selectech® Candidate Management System, modularly so clients could elect (and only pay for) the functions that they need. Selectech CMS takes tracking further by converting a hardcopy application to an eApplication, and integrating background screening and WOTC administration. A full implementation can include a Retention Health Survey, and integrating validated, legally defensible, pre-hire assessments with report features that have been described as "awesome." Other modules provide automated interview scheduling and confirmation, fax/email job postings, a full reporting system, and automated candidate status line. Selectech CMS is available using either the Internet and/or IVR (telephone) technologies. ARGOS Assessment Company, a division of ERC, provides multirater assessment survey administration.

To learn more about ERC and its portfolio of cost effective staffing solutions visit www.erccdataplus.com or call 1-888-

ERC-CORP (372-2677).

About *Human Resource Executive*[®]

Human Resource Executive[®] was established in 1987 and continues today as the premier publication focused on strategic issues in HR. Written primarily for vice presidents and directors of human resources, the magazine provides these key decision-makers with news, profiles of HR visionaries and success stories of human resource innovators.

Additional information about *Human Resource Executive*[®] is available at www.workindex.com/hrexecutive.

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