

Monday, February 2, 2004 Poll: Trump doesn't appeal as boss
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Can one of 16 applicants acquire enough knowledge from Donald Trump to win a key to success and an internship worth \$250,000 a year?

That appears to be the premise of "The Apprentice," the NBC reality show co-produced by Trump, the New York real estate tycoon. As part of the show, eight men and eight women compete for a high-stakes internship at a Trump enterprise. After each episode, one of the 16 applicants is dismissed by Trump himself.

Throughout the program, Trump offers assignments and then "grades" the applicants. He also encourages them to evaluate each other. The competition is fierce, even brutal.

Although Trump might view himself as a great boss, some executives and employees aren't so sure. When Clark Consulting asked 137 professionals from several top companies whether they would work for Trump, many were far from eager. Of those polled, 38 percent said they would have to earn considerably more than \$250,000 to work for Trump. An additional 27 percent said he couldn't pay them enough to work for him.

Clark, an Illinois-based executive compensation and benefits firm, conducted the survey Jan. 15-20.

"For many, working for him would be the chance of a lifetime," said Tom Wamberg, chairman and chief executive of Clark Consulting. "For others, there isn't a chance that they would work for him in this lifetime."

According to the poll, 10 percent would willingly accept an internship with Trump for no pay. Twenty-five percent said they would have to make \$50,000 to \$250,000 per year. The rest, or 65 percent, either wanted far more than \$250,000 or said that even the higher pay couldn't induce them to work for Trump.

Survey says: Let's not take a meeting

Say the words "office meeting," and some workers dive for cover.

A survey of 1,216 U.S. employees commissioned by Interactive Meeting Solutions, a high-tech meeting firm in Santa Rosa, reveals that 29 percent of workers attend three or more meetings per week and 34 percent say most are a "complete waste of time."

The random survey was conducted by Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

The survey found that some workers bring their Palm Pilots and cell phones to liven up or escape a dull gathering. In all, 8 percent of the workers polled said they played electronic games at meetings; 14 percent of those workers were 18 to 24 years old. To escape a boring meeting, 5 percent of workers have had a friend or coworker give them a bogus page or cell phone call.

Said IMS President Chuck McPherson, "Handled incorrectly, the modern meeting has to rank as one of America's most excruciating and masochistic workplace experiences around. And a bad meeting only creates yet another bad meeting."

The survey does offer some good news: Meetings at small companies tend to be more effective than those at bigger firms.

Small firms also hold fewer meetings. Thirty-seven percent of the workers at large companies attend three or more meetings each week, compared with 21 percent at small companies.