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April 3, 2013

Re: Cyndi Silva Recommendation

It has been quite a while since I last had the opportunity and good fortune to work with Cyndi Silva. Cyndi reminded me the other day that it has been over seventeen years, in fact!

That opening line might lead to the conclusion that my reference is outdated and not very valuable. I would like to put a different perspective on things.

Cyndi worked in our Prepress function (she can provide you the details of that work) while I was the manager of the department. At that time electronic prepress (computer workstations, scanners, software, electronic page assembly, etc.) was just coming into its own as the new way to process pages in the printing business. It took me very little time as the department manager to recognize the incredible talent and leadership that Cyndi brought to our company.

As Electronic Pre-Press Lead, Cyndi provided great leadership to the entire Electronic Prepress staff, including training from the basics to fluency in all operations. She listened to her people. She was always kind and thoughtful. But she also recognized the needs of our customers and our business. She did a fabulous job of communicating so that everyone could understand what we needed to do in order to be successful. And, of course, when she wasn't leading, she was creating. She had incredible flair in her work and her talent and her demeanor always made a very positive impression on our customers.

One of the things that makes Cyndi successful is also the thing that led to her leaving us. Cyndi has vision. And she has the inner strength to follow that vision. She was sure that the tools she was working with had applications that could allow her to strike out on her own and deliver a set of services that could be of value to others. And so she left us and has spent the past seventeen years proving that.

Seventeen years later, I remember Cyndi's work with us as if she had just left yesterday. She is the kind of person who leaves a mark on the parts of our world that she touches. She certainly did that for our company and for me. Any company would be fortunate to have Cyndi work for them.

George Wilkes Plant Director Quad/Graphics