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A good place to work

Marten Transport honorable mention in Chippewa Valley Best Place to Work contest

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Carol Forde's written response to a house ad in Chippewa Valley B2B soliciting nominations for a Best Places to Work competition speaks volumes about the relationship she has with her employer. The ad asked questions such as "Do you have a boss who is supportive?" and "Do you have co-workers who make it fun to come to work every day?"

Forde's response: "YES, to all of the above! My boss is supportive but at the same time gives my department the freedom to be creative and productive. She always listens to our ideas, and usually supports them and promotes them within the organization. My department appreciates the opportunity to come up with innovative new ideas for training - and new venues to deliver it - with our company's support."

Such sentiments aren't necessarily the norm with larger employers like Marten Transport, a trucking firm based in Mondovi that employs more than 2,000 people.

"That's one of the things about Marten, you have a lot of opportunities to spread your wings," said Forde, a training manager.

Forde said she meets with her boss once a week and there is an open door policy with almost any company official. The late Roger Marten founded the company in 1946 and his son, Randy, is the current president and Chairman of the Board.

"Marten started out as a family-run organization," Forde said, "and it really has retained a lot of that family atmosphere."

Training Coordinator Mark Trapani has been at Marten for four years.

"Since the first day I was here - whether it was a vice president or department head - the doors of communication are literally open," he said. "People go that extra mile to make things work."