

A Good Year

Ben Buehler



In his 17th year in the classroom, a teacher learns a new lesson from his students about what makes a successful science course.

What makes for entertaining teaching isn't always the best teaching. In this talk, given at the Knowles Teacher Initiative's 20th Anniversary Gala, Ben Buehler reflects on how he's often robbed students of the "doing" of science in his physics course.

Ben helps us see that the role of an entertaining teacher, while often celebrated, pales in comparison to the role of a teacher who opens opportunities for students as people to learn with and from. He also explains how support from a robust professional community, like the one he's found at the Knowles Teacher Initiative, can make all the difference in transforming teaching and learning.

"He said, 'Mr. Buehler, I hear what you're saying, but it makes absolutely no sense, and I think you're wrong.' Right then, I knew it was going to be a very, very good year."

Watch Ben tell his story on the *Kaleidoscope* website: knowlesteachers.org/kaleidoscope.

Citation

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Ben Buehler, a Knowles Senior Fellow, is currently teaching physics, chemistry, and computer science at Yorktown High School in central Indiana. Inside school, he enjoys perusing student whiteboards and asking lots of questions. Ben is particularly interested in helping students learn how to talk about science in meaningful ways. Reach Ben at ben.buehler@knowlesteachers.org.