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Title:

Great teachers are not born - they're taught

Abstract:

This presentation will challenge the widespread belief that teaching is an art that has to be figured out individually, and that it is primarily a matter of personal style. If teaching is individual and must be figured out by each person on the job, then there is little hope of ensuring that all young people receive skillful instruction. Moreover, when great teachers say things like, "I learned everything I know on the job," or "I do what works for me," they may unwittingly undermine the claim to professionalism. Teaching responsibly is highly skilled and unnatural work. Leaving its development to chance puts learners at risk and reduces the profession to little more than commonsense. Instead, what is needed is to articulate the capabilities fundamental to responsible teaching and to develop strong infrastructure for their development.