

Episode 2: Redefining Passion: Kerri's Transition from Law to Education

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In this episode of *Beyond the Classroom*, Kerri Knudsen shares her inspiring journey from practicing law for over 15 years to finding her true calling in education. After a successful career in law, Kerri made the bold decision to pivot into teaching in 2016. Since then, she has been dedicated to helping students navigate complex subjects with clarity and insight, particularly in areas like law and ethics. With her extensive experience as a litigator, Kerri brings practical, real-world perspectives to her courses, making challenging topics more accessible and relatable for students.

Throughout the episode, Kerri dives deep into her teaching philosophy, which centers on fostering a reflective, inclusive, and engaging learning environment. She emphasizes the importance of encouraging critical thinking, helping students examine problems from multiple perspectives to enhance their understanding. Kerri believes that the classroom is more than just a space for instruction—it's a community. She shares her strategies for building a sense of belonging among students and discusses how creating a supportive environment enhances learning and participation.

A strong advocate for flexible and inclusive education, Kerri also sheds light on how educators can adapt to meet the needs of diverse learners. She believes that flexibility is key in today's educational landscape, allowing each student to engage with material in ways that best suit their learning style. By incorporating innovative teaching methods, she aims to make learning both challenging and enjoyable, ensuring that students feel both supported and motivated to excel.

Kerri's dedication and impact have been recognized through Seneca's prestigious Teaching Excellence Award, underscoring her commitment to student success and her passion for transformative teaching. In this episode, she offers valuable insights for educators who are looking to make a meaningful impact in their own classrooms. Kerri's story is a powerful reminder of the potential for growth and renewal in one's career and the profound influence educators have in shaping the future.