

# Challenging Your Students To Do Their Best

Carl C. Cowen

Purdue University

and

the Mathematical Biosciences Institute

at Ohio State University

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## Outline

- Introduction
- Challenging yourself
- Expectations of your students
- Some techniques that work for me
- Discussion

## **Introduction/Assumptions**

- No one knows all the answers (certainly not me!)
  - You never stop learning (unless you want to)
  - Teaching and learning are individual skills – what works for you is probably not the same as what works for your colleague down the hall
  - Nothing works with all your students – you will fail to connect with some of them
  - No matter what the level of sophistication of the entering students, we all want them to leave changed, with broader and deeper knowledge and experience
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## **Challenging yourself**

- Being a college professor can be hard work
- Be clear about what you want and seek a balance
- To challenge your students, you need to challenge yourself
- Since you can't do everything, consciously choose what to do
- Find somebody to talk to

## **Expectations of your students**

My most important message:

(Most of) **Your students will live up to your expectations – so set them high!**

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## **Expectations of your students**

- What are your expectations of your students?
- High but not out of reach
- Communicate your expectations on day 1 and throughout the term
- Why are your students in your class?
- My students didn't learn < > in the previous class
- Don't let them off the hook!
- Tell the students what they've accomplished – and how they are poised to accomplish more
- Reputation exists and matters

## Some techniques

- Seat time
- Complex numbers
- Homework
- Technology and comfort
- Reading