

Challenges and Opportunities for Latin and Classics Programs

Many Latin and Classics programs at the high school and college/university level face regular challenges to their survival; at the same time, the study of Latin and Classics receives widespread support nationally. The purpose of this panel/roundtable discussion is to give voice to both the challenges and the opportunities that present themselves to teachers in Latin and Classics programs, and to offer a forum for general discussion about how organizations like CAMWS, and, specifically the Committee for the Promotion of Latin, can address these situations.

The session will be introduced by the organizer with a series of examples of specific situations where programs have been under fire and where others are seeing tremendous increases. The challenges we face are not only those that threaten to eliminate programs, but often include the difficulty of sustaining quality program growth. Latin teacher training and better articulation between high school and college figure as prominently in some areas as the need for better communication within a school and between the school/program and the public.

The panel part of the session will feature two speakers who will talk in depth about how their programs met challenges with positive and progressive measures. A third presentation will address an innovative project to help train and sustain good teaching practices for new and experienced Latin teachers.

Finally, we envision a significant block of time devoted to an open exchange of ideas about how all of us can help address these issues. CAMWS and the CPL have an excellent track record of helping programs in need, but are we doing enough? Are there other ways we can help? We hope this panel/discussion will provide a forum for initiating a set of agenda items for the

CPL to strengthen its efforts to support the promotion of Latin and Classics in the schools at all levels and in the general community.