

Mentoring Is Vital

Mentoring is a vital part of how new teachers become established in the profession.

When experienced colleagues give generously of their time, young teachers benefit from both practical advice and emotional support. At some point, however, new teachers cease to be new, and can begin to use their experiences to benefit others. This past summer, while completing the second year of a post-doc, I co-taught elementary Latin with a much more experienced teacher from whom I learned a great deal. During this course, I also worked closely with one of our students to help him prepare to teach Latin at a local high school where he has now become a member of the regional Classics community. As I undertook to advise and support this new member of our profession while still seeking the advice of our senior colleague, I was able to reflect on the way networks of collaborative support strengthen our discipline.