

Supporting and Mentoring New Teachers: A Tirones Project

“There Is a Shortage of Certified Latin Teachers: Please Spread the Word!” This is the title of an article in the most recent issue of *Amphora*. Here Ronnie Ancona and Kathy Durkin call attention to the widespread gap between the number of schools—and students—who would like to offer Latin, and the number of certified Latin teachers available to teach those students.

Many factors account for the small number of Latin teachers, and of teachers in general; among them is the high rate of attrition among early-career teachers. The Tirones initiative of the National Committee for Latin and Greek seeks to support Latin teachers. Because research shows that a strong mentoring program increases the satisfaction of new teachers, we have looked at the ways mentoring takes place in various Latin programs.

This workshop will look at some strategies used by professional, philanthropic, and community organizations to support teachers, and at two different experiences of mentoring in Virginia, from the perspectives of both the more experienced teachers and beginners as well as a representative from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Ample time will be provided in this workshop for attendees to offer comments, suggestions and reflections on their own experiences.