

CPL/NCLG Workshop: Mentoring New Teachers, Supporting One Another

This workshop is jointly sponsored by the Committee for the Promotion of Latin and the National Committee for Latin and Greek. These two committees, of CAMWS and of ACL respectively, share many concerns, including the support of early-career Latin teachers. The *Tirones* Project has as its aim investigating ways of providing that support.

Recruitment of and support for new teachers is crucial for Latin education at the pre-collegiate level. Nationally, new teachers leave their classrooms within five or ten years—far earlier than they reach their peak effectiveness. One powerful way to support these teachers and to keep them teaching is to provide appropriate mentoring. The most effective mentoring programs, research tells us, are school-centered and ongoing; ideally schools provide release time for experienced teachers to meet with new teachers on a regular basis.

Neither CPL nor NCLG can provide that kind of experience. We can nonetheless help facilitate less formal mentoring relationships, especially ones taking advantage of the internet.

In this workshop teachers will reflect on their own experiences as mentors, having mentors, and wishing for mentors. Such experiences include the long-distance mentoring of ACTFL, working through local, state, or national JCL, and other less formal ways. Our goal is that participants will see the value of various kinds of support for one another, and consider a variety of ways to create opportunities for supportive activities to take place.

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