

## Opportunity or Crisis?

National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week addresses the future of teaching for the second year.

The first week in March will see the second annual National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week. NLTRW was conceived to address the need for more qualified Latin teachers in this country.

Do we have a crisis? I don't think so. What we do have is a situation where we as a profession have created an environment that has made Latin not only an acceptable language elective once again, but a desirable one. We have demonstrated time and time again with SAT scores the simple benefit of improved vocabulary skills. This is perhaps our biggest selling point even if it diminishes the scope of what we really teach—the history, philosophy, passion and poetry that belonged to the Romans. And I think students know this; what we really teach usually does not make good headline material. (See “Latin lives in verbal scores”

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/1103/17latin.html> or “Latin being resurrected: Schools say it's a bona fide help on scores”

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/7395436.htm>, but contrast with “Roman Rebound” [http://www.economist.com/diversions/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=2281926](http://www.economist.com/diversions/displayStory.cfm?story_id=2281926).)\*

Nevertheless, schools are going without Latin teachers. Programs are being closed because new qualified teachers cannot be found for retiring teachers. Expanding programs cannot continue their impetus because new qualified teachers cannot be found.

Let us take this crisis and turn it into an opportunity to reach out to students as we have never done before.

National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week gives you a reason to talk to your students—all of your students—about teaching Latin. Find at least one day during the first week in March to share with students why you find teaching a rewarding and enervating vocation. Distribute and discuss the downloadable, printable materials from the NLTRW website at [www.promotelatin.org/nltrw.htm](http://www.promotelatin.org/nltrw.htm). You will find materials for both secondary and college students, plus information about universities with teacher preparation for Latin as well as scholarships.

Last year was the first NLTRW and the participation from teachers and professors was inspiring. But we can do more—with your help. Spread the word in your area, convince colleagues that participation in NLTRW is important, and most importantly do not shy away from participating yourself, thinking that your students have no interest in teaching.

Visit the NLTRW website today at [www.promotelatin.org/nltrw.htm](http://www.promotelatin.org/nltrw.htm). Share it with a friend. Then start planning out what you will do that first week of March for NLTRW.

*Ginny Lindzey, Chair, CAMWS Committee for the Promotion of Latin, Porter Middle School*

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\* A list of online articles related to Latin can be found at the National Committee for Latin and Greek website at [www.promotelatin.org](http://www.promotelatin.org).