

Sister Therese DOUGHERTY

High-Success NEH Programs
in Classics for School Teachers

Sister Therese Dougherty will describe the various types of NEH program she has directed: four four-week summer institutes and one three-week institute on her college campus, one six-week institute in Italy, and a Humanities Focus Grant Seminar that extended throughout one calendar year. Although the institutes were intended primarily for Latin teachers, a few participants were teachers of other disciplines who had a high interest in ancient Rome and a willingness to meet the challenge of reading Latin texts. She will focus briefly on the process of publishing information concerning the institute and of selecting participants from among the applicants. She will describe in some detail the content of the programs, the contributions of visiting scholars, the format of the literature, composition and pedagogy seminars that were included. She will speak to the importance of creating an atmosphere that is at the same time welcoming and challenging to the teachers who participate. She will address some of the difficulties involved in campus arrangements and the importance of planning every detail well in advance, knowing that unforeseen circumstances are bound to necessitate last-minute adjustments. She will describe some of the interaction among participants through electronic media prior to arrival, in formal and informal sessions during the institute itself, and through electronic communication as a follow-up to the institute. Finally, she will mention some of the projects created as a result of the experiences and several participants' reports on the impact the experience has made on their personal lives and their teaching.