CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE ATLANTIC STATES CLASSICAL WORLD

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Title: *Classics for less fortunate 9-12 grade students: the Sutton Scholars outreach program and the University of Warwick (Coventry, UK)*

Abstract: *Sutton Scholars* is an outreach program, sponsored by the Sutton Trust, which funds small regional projects helping low and middle income pupils at the secondary school stage to flourish and succeed in reaching the college and university level. The Sutton program benefits from high-level academics around the UK, providing their expertise in a wide range of subjects. The students are therefore involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities, which usually take place at UK universities. The Sutton foundation has recently founded remarkable projects in cooperation with the Universities of Cambridge and Warwick. The latter and its Department of Classics and Ancient History are currently undertaking an outreach program to promote Classics subjects among less fortunate students in the West Midlands region.

The aim of my paper is to present the Sutton program at Warwick University to CAAS-CW's 9-12 teachers and to university/college professors who are involved in the outreach activities and would like to know (and eventually be inspired by) a UK project from a fresh perspective. As the Classics 'Scholar' for the project, I therefore provide 'first-hand' knowledge of a variety of teaching experiences undertaken within the Sutton program at Warwick. First, I present my activities as a teacher in the dedicated Roman coin sessions, where the students can learn about numismatics, and handle and catalog 'real' ancient coins. Second, I outline a series of additional extra-curricular activities at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford), where pupils are

personally involved in crafting (e.g. sling bullets) and the handling and analysis of ancient objects.

Such experiences are undoubtedly vital to show students the importance of ancient history and material culture, and to inspire them to pursue an academic path in Classical studies. Finally, the CAAS-CW's attendants and 9-12 teachers will learn about an innovative outreach project from which they can draw inspiration. [word count: 300/300]

Audiovisual aids: I am willing to use a Power Point showing my presentation at the CAAS-CW Annual Meeting. My slides will show how the Sutton Scholars program has been carried out by the University of Warwick. Moreover, I am going to print a handout for the audience.

Key-words: Archaeology
clubs
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Membership: My CAAS-CW membership is currently valid until August 2017 and I have just renewed the membership for the next year (2017/18) (order n. 15501108).