



**QuarkNet**

## Stories from the classroom

I am brand new to QuarkNet, having just joined this summer. I was able to participate in a QuarkNet trip to LIGO Louisiana and came back with some great ideas to incorporate in my classroom. This was the best professional development I have experienced in my 7 years as a classroom teacher.

Attached you will find a picture of my most successful project implementation so far. This wave generator built from scotch tape and drinking straws is one of the simple, low-cost projects shared with us by the LIGO staff. My physics students had great fun constructing and testing variables on this project.

I also received a small grant from a local community foundation to purchase supplies for some magnetic demonstrations that we learned about through QuarkNet. Those projects are still in the planning phase and should be ready for classroom inclusion in late February.

I have a cosmic ray muon detector set up in my classroom and am also working to incorporate that into my classes. I'm making slow progress in that regard.

I think the biggest impact on me with QuarkNet so far is the ability to collaborate with other Physics teachers on a regular basis. I am in a small rural school. I am the only physics and chemistry teacher. QuarkNet has provided me with a group of teachers I can interact with through e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and even sometimes in person. Someone in our QuarkNet group is always doing something interesting in the classroom and I feel inspired by them to try new things.

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