



A physics teacher at a small school can feel very isolated from the physics community. QuarkNet has connected me with researchers, professors, and other teachers, and has provided us all with opportunities to provide exciting STEM experiences for our students.

I have been taking my students to Masterclass for the past six years, and it has been an incredibly valuable experience each time. One of my students who is now an engineering undergraduate credits the Masterclass experience with introducing him to STEM study and career options he hadn't considered before.

Many of my students report Masterclass at Kansas State University to be one of the best field trips of their high school career.

Through QuarkNet I've worked with summer research at the University of Kansas, helping about a dozen students a year work on research in particle physics and closely related areas. This has helped propel multiple students into active research at the college level, and has influenced them to continue their paths toward careers in engineering and science.

My QuarkNet summer research position at the University of Kansas has led to a close working relationship with the QuarkNet center teachers and the physics department. I have learned much from them, and I appreciate being a part of the KU Physics community.

QuarkNet has given me the opportunity to use an advanced piece of research equipment, the cosmic ray muon detector, with my classes, clubs and students. We are too far from any major research accelerators to tour, but this brings high-level research directly into their hands.

One of my students became very interested in learning about our QuarkNet cosmic ray muon detector. She became my chief detector operator, and spent two summers and the intervening years doing research at the University of Kansas before graduating from my school. She has since begun her studies in physics and astronomy at KU, and continues to work on her research projects with her mentors and collaborators at KU.

The local communities of QuarkNet teachers in Kansas form highly collaborative groups, and provide significant opportunities for high-quality professional development every year.

QuarkNet has provided me the opportunity to study at Fermilab with the highly-respected group of QuarkNet Fellows, teachers who work passionately to help other teachers bring new and exciting particle physics research based activities into our classrooms.

QuarkNet provides teachers with incredible opportunities for professional development and networking with other educators. I have been fortunate enough to be selected to study at Fermilab twice, and to attend the Inspiring Science Education workshop in Marathon, Greece. My network of physics colleagues with whom I regularly share thoughts and ideas has grown tremendously through these opportunities.

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