

QuarkNet Partners



NSF: The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 “to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense...” NSF

supports basic research and people to create knowledge that transforms the future. QuarkNet is funded through NSF’s Integrative Activities in Physics Program.

Advisory Board: Typically, eight to ten individuals both familiar with and new to the program meet annually to review QuarkNet program achievements and make recommendations for future plans and objectives. Members represent a diverse mix of high school physics teachers, education administrators, research physicists and physics outreach leaders.



QuarkNet: The QuarkNet Collaboration is a long-term, national program that *partners*

high school science teachers with particle physicists working in experiments at the scientific frontier. A professional development program, QuarkNet immerses teachers in authentic physics research and seeks to engage them in the development of instructional strategies and best practices that facilitate the implementation of these principles in their classrooms.

U.S. ATLAS: A collaboration of scientists from 45 U.S. institutions. ATLAS is one of two general-purpose detectors at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland. The ATLAS experiment investigates a wide range of physics, from the search for the Higgs boson to extra dimensions and particles that could make up dark matter. U.S. ATLAS is a co-sponsor of QuarkNet.

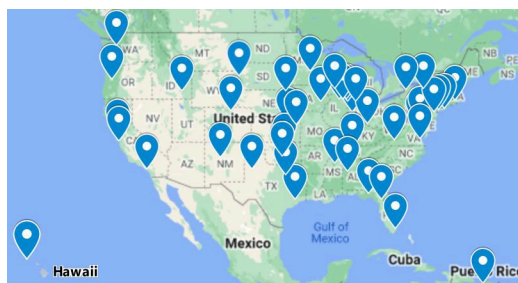


Fermilab: America’s particle physics and accelerator laboratory whose

vision is to solve the mysteries of matter, energy, space and time for the benefit of all. Fermilab, a co-sponsor of QuarkNet, hosts Data Camp held each summer and supports the cosmic ray studies program. Fermilab hosts DUNE and the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility. DUNE brings together over 1,000 scientists from more than 175 institutions in over 30 countries.



U.S. CMS: A collaboration of more than 900 scientists from 50 U.S. institutions who make significant contributions to the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector. Discoveries from the CMS experiment are revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. USCMS is a co-sponsor of QuarkNet.



QuarkNet Centers: Centers both form the essential backbone of and are partners in QuarkNet. A center is housed at a university or laboratory, serving high school physics and physical science teachers; active local centers number 50+.

Broadening Participation and Community Outreach:

QuarkNet works on multiple fronts to help broaden participation beyond the existing community, including teachers and students who are underrepresented in physics. Examples include center needs assessment workshops that serve to identify ways to reach out to these communities. QuarkNet partners with other STEM organizations to reach more teachers and students. Recent partners are *STEP UP*, *STEMarts Lab*, and *i.am.Angel Foundation*. Many Data Activities Portfolio activities have been translated into Spanish. Often, participating teachers develop classroom implementation plans that integrate culturally sensitive content. Centers integrate QuarkNet in their community outreach efforts, partnering to reach beyond existing QuarkNet schools to students traditionally underrepresented in STEM.



IRIS-HEP: A software institute funded by the National Science Foundation. It aims to develop the state-of-the-art software cyberinfrastructure required for the challenges of data intensive

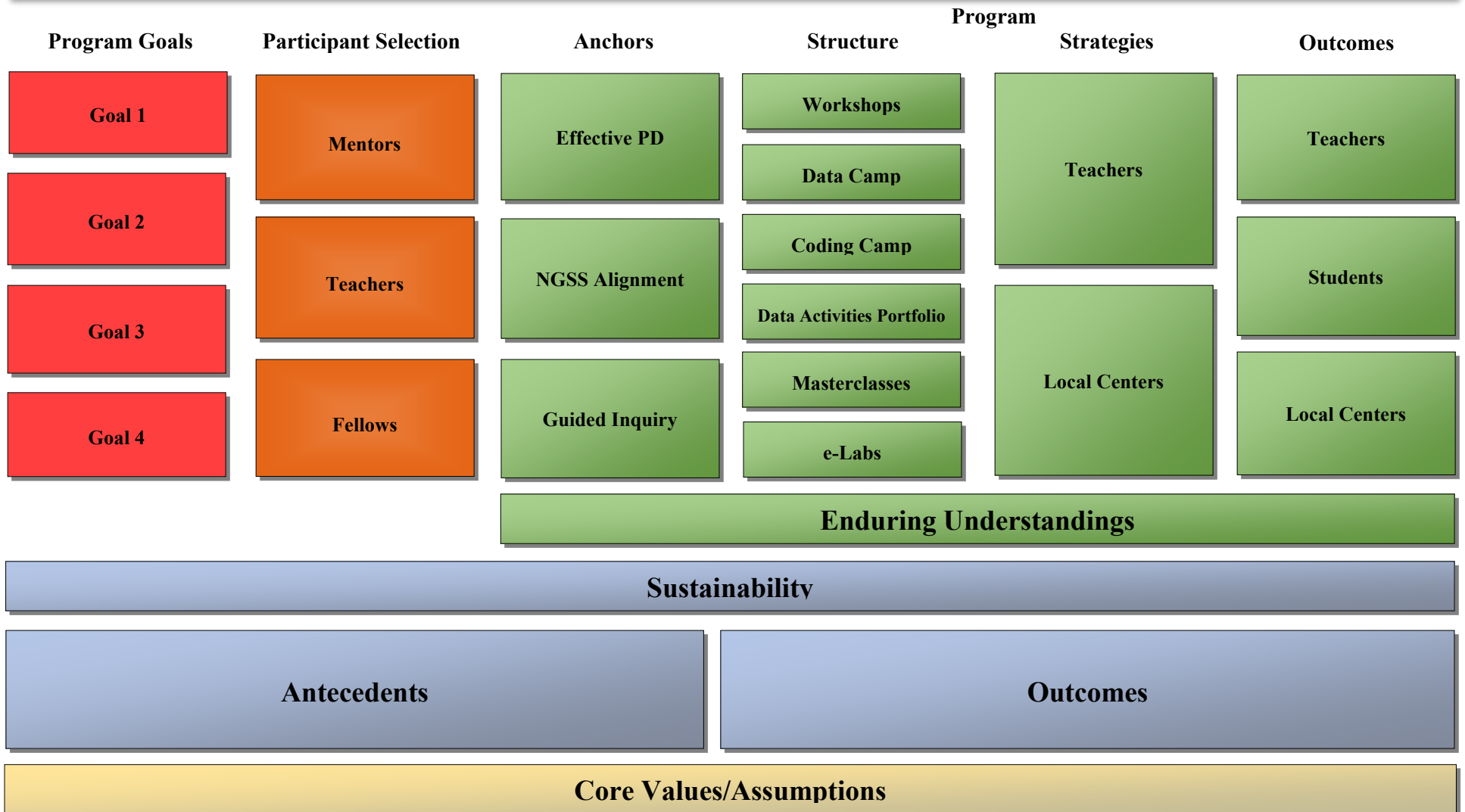
scientific research at the High Luminosity Large Hadron Collider (HL-LHC) at CERN, and other planned HEP experiments of the 2020’s. In partnership with IRIS-HEP, QuarkNet offers professional development opportunities for teachers to improve coding skills to enhance classroom implementation of particle physics instructional materials.

Broader Impacts: QuarkNet has led in facilitating the public use of large particle physics datasets. Working within the International Particle Physics Outreach group (IPPOG), QuarkNet shares the overall central coordination of International Masterclasses (IMC). QuarkNet schedules and coordinates ATLAS, CMS, MINERvA and NOvA International Masterclasses with videoconferences based at Fermilab. Also, QuarkNet develops and coordinates World Wide Data Day, an IMC extension, and shares leadership in the global cosmic ray studies project. QuarkNet provides a wealth of information for IPPOG members to consider in their own education and outreach programs. QuarkNet staff and teachers attend and present at meetings of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society. These presentations have highlighted how QuarkNet works, e-Labs, the Data Activities Portfolio and scientific discovery for students.

QuarkNet Program Theory Model

Program Statement: The QuarkNet Collaboration is a long-term, national program that partners high school science teachers with particle physicists working in experiments at the scientific frontier. A professional development program, QuarkNet immerses teachers in authentic physics research and seeks to engage them in the development of instructional strategies and best practices that facilitate the implementation of these principles in their classrooms.

Centers: QuarkNet delivers its professional development program in partnership with local centers.



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QuarkNet delivers its professional development program in partnership with local centers.

QuarkNet Centers: Centers both form the essential backbone of and are partners in QuarkNet. A center is housed at a university or laboratory, serving primarily teachers who live within reasonable commuting distances. An online center, the Virtual Center, provides a home for teachers who no longer live close to a particle physics research group. At the center, program leaders include one or two particle physicists who serve as mentor(s) and team up with one or two lead teacher(s). Each center seeks to foster lasting relationships through collaboration at the local level and through engagement with the national program.

Program Goals

Measurable professional development (PD) goals are:

Goal 1: To continue a PD program that prepares teachers to provide opportunities for students to engage in scientific practices and discourse and to show evidence that they understand how scientists develop knowledge. To help teachers translate their experiences into instructional strategies, which reflect guided inquiry and NGSS science and engineering practices.

Goal 2: To sustain a national network of independent centers working to achieve similar goals. To provide financial support, research internships, an instructional toolkit, student programs and professional development workshops. To investigate additional funding sources to strengthen the overall program.

Goal 3: To reenergize teachers and aid their contributions to the quality and practice of colleagues in the field of science education.

Goal 4: To provide particle physics research groups with an opportunity for a broader impact in their communities.

Participant Selection

Teachers: High school physics/physical science teachers who express interest in QuarkNet and/or who are invited to participate through staff, fellows, or mentors/center teachers. Mentors may know high school teachers who would be good additions to their research team and/or who may become associate teachers at the center.

Mentors: Particle physics researchers working at a university or laboratory who have expressed interest in participating in QuarkNet. Mentors propose a research project, identify a mentor team, and describe previous outreach experience. Staff and PIs approve before adding the mentors/centers to the QuarkNet network.

Fellows: QuarkNet teachers who are invited by staff to become fellows based on participants' experiences working with a local center or on national programs such as Data Camp.

Program Anchors

Characteristics of Effective Professional Development¹

- Is content focused
- Incorporates active learning utilizing adult learning theory
- Supports collaboration, typically in job-embedded contexts
- Uses models and modeling of effective practice
- Provides coaching and expert support
- Offers opportunities for feedback and reflection
- Is of sustained duration

¹Darling-Hammond, L., Hyster, M.E., & Gardner, M. (2017, June). Effective teacher professional development. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

Pedagogical and Instructional Best Practices

Aligns with the [Science and Engineering Practices](#) of the NGSS. APPENDIX F – Science and Engineering Practices in the NGSS (2013, April). As suggested, these practices are intended to better specify what is meant by inquiry in science. Science and Engineering Practices

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Content addresses **Disciplinary Core Ideas and Crosscutting Concepts** (NGSS):

1. Patterns
2. Cause and Effect
3. Scale, Proportion and Quantity
4. Systems and System Models
5. Energy and Matter in Systems
6. Structure and Function
7. Stability and Change of Systems

Guided Inquiry

Guided inquiry (teacher provides problem or question) and Structured inquiry (where teacher provides problem and procedure) [Herron, M.D. (1971). The nature of scientific enquiry. *School Review*, 79(2), 171- 212.] **Guided Inquiry** - The solution is **not already existing/known in advance** and could vary from student to student. **Students EITHER investigate a teacher-presented question** (usually open-ended) **using student designed/selected procedures OR investigate questions that are student formulated** (usually open-ended) **through a prescribed procedure** (some parts of the procedure may be student designed/selected). (2007 Jan-Marie Kellow)

Program Structure

Data Camp: Offered annually at Fermilab, this 1-week summer program is an introductory workshop for teachers of physics and physical science who either have had little-to-no experience with particle physics and/or who have had little experience with quantitative analysis of LHC data. The camp emphasizes an authentic data analysis experience in which teachers engage as active learners (as students) of a challenging topic they may have known very little about. In the beginning of the week, teachers receive an authentic CMS dataset and work in small groups to determine the mass of particles produced during LHC proton-proton collisions. Successful completion of this phase of the workshop culminates in each group presenting and explaining their analyses. In the second half of the week, teachers explore various instructional materials in the Data Activities Portfolio that help incorporate particle physics concepts into their everyday lessons and propose an implementation plan for their classrooms. Throughout the week, teachers take tours and participate in seminars from theoretical and experimental physicists.

Coding Camp: A virtual 1-week program offered annually in the summer for teachers of physics and physical science with little-to-no experience in computer programming and/or incorporating computer science into their courses. The camp emphasizes an authentic data analysis experience in which teachers engage as active learners (as students) using common scientific programming software (e.g., Jupyter, Python, & SciPy) to analyze and visualize large datasets from various scientific disciplines, including particle physics, astronomy, and geology. Like Data Camp, during the first half of the week, teachers are learners of challenging content. In the second half, they use reformed pedagogy in planning how to integrate coding into their courses. Throughout the week, teachers participate in virtual seminars with scientists and programmers working in various fields.

Data Activities Portfolio: An online compendium of particle physics classroom instructional materials organized by data strand, level of student engagement, curriculum topics and NGSS Standards. Instructional materials conform to a specific instructional design and are aligned with NGSS and AP science standards (Physics 1 and Physics 2) as relevant. Materials are based on authentic experimental data used by teachers to give students an opportunity to learn how scientists make discoveries. Strands include LHC, Cosmic Ray Studies, and Neutrino. [Level descriptions](#), 0 to 4, explain the data analysis skills that students apply at each level: tasks in Level 0 are simpler than those in Levels 1 and 2. While each level can be explored individually, students who start in one level and progress to more complex levels experience increasingly engaging and challenging tasks.

Each curriculum topic provides connections between topics routinely covered in physics class and particle physics content and methods. The drop-down menus identify activities related to desired content and student skill sets. Teacher, student resources and data sets are available for each activity. In the Curriculum Topic drop-down menu, Spanish Language versions are available for some activities. Also, coding activities are available.

Masterclass, QuarkNet Model: A one-day event in which students become “particle physicists for a day.” Teachers and mentors participate in an orientation, either remote or in person, by QuarkNet staff or fellows. Teachers implement up to three hours of classroom activities prior to a masterclass. Then, during the masterclass that usually takes place at a center, mentors introduce students to particle physics, and teachers explain the measurements they will make using authentic particle physics data. Working in pairs, students analyze data from visual event displays, characterize the events, pool their data with peers, and draw conclusions. Students are helped by and discuss interpretation of data with one or more particle physicists and their peers and teachers. At the end of the day, students may gather by videoconference with students at other sites to discuss results with moderators, who are particle physicists, at Fermilab, CERN, or another high energy physics facility. Some masterclasses take place at school with teachers providing the particle physics and measurement information. QuarkNet Masterclasses are part of a larger program, International Masterclasses.

Workshops: The primary vehicle through which participating QuarkNet teachers receive professional development. Teachers engage in QuarkNet workshops when new to the program and often over multiple years.

Workshops are in-person events held at a center. (A virtual center accommodates teachers from a dispersed area.) QuarkNet staff work with individual centers to build this experience with considerable flexibility to organize workshops that meet local needs and interests. Workshops vary in length, from 1-to-5 days, typically occur during the summer, but many centers may meet during the summer and school year. Workshops can be locally led or nationally led and are often a combination of the two, thus varying in content and structure. Nationally-led workshops, conducted by QuarkNet staff and/or fellows, cover content including, for example, cosmic ray studies, LHC or neutrino data, coding in support of particle physics, and related activities from the Data Activities Portfolio. Nationally-led workshops support opportunities for teachers to engage as active learners, as students, engage in activities from the Data Activities Portfolio, collect and analyze data, work in a learning-community environment, learn and share ideas related to content and pedagogy, and build collegial relationships with other teachers, fellows and mentors. Of importance, teachers have time to develop and discuss classroom implementation plans. Often locally- led workshops mirror these components and offer opportunities for teachers to tour local research labs, participate in unique events, and/or hear presentations by local physicists and students.

Staff encourage centers to post their agendas and annual reports on the QuarkNet website to share this engagement with other centers. Often, centers collaborate with other centers (e.g., rotating host responsibilities from one year to the next), join together through shared interests or content needs and other opportunities for multi-center engagement.

e-Lab: A browser-based online platform in which students can access and analyze data in a guided-inquiry scientific investigation. An e-Lab provides a framework and pathway as well as resources for students to conduct their own investigations. e-Lab users share results through online plots and posters. In the CMS e-Lab, data are available from the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at CERN²'s Large Hadron Collider (LHC). In the Cosmic Ray e-Lab, users upload data from QuarkNet cosmic ray detectors located at high schools, and once uploaded, the data are available to any and all users.

² Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire

Cosmic Ray Studies: Across most centers, QuarkNet supports a high school long-term collaboration based on the High Energy Physics model using particle detectors provided in kit form. In this hands-on learning opportunity, students assemble the parts into a working scientific instrument based on the design used in the Collider Detector at Fermilab. Students and their teachers use the detectors for inquiry-based learning involving authentic research tasks and experiments such as muon flux, muon lifetime, and speed of muons, using data they collect themselves. Their data can be uploaded to the cosmic ray e-Lab for analysis, creating graphed plots to display results.

Cosmic Watches: Smaller more portable particle detectors, cosmic watches extend the reach of authentic research activity to all students, not just research groups, by moving cosmic ray studies into classrooms increasing the number of teachers using cosmic rays to teach about elementary particles and observing the invisible.

Program Strategies

QuarkNet is not static but evolves to reflect changes in particle physics and the education context in which it operates.

Teachers

Provide opportunities for teachers to be exposed to:

- Instructional strategies that model active, guided-inquiry learning (see NGSS science practices).
- Big Idea(s) in Science (cutting-edge research) and Enduring Understandings (in particle physics).

Provide opportunities for teachers to:

- Engage as active learners, as students.
- Do science the way scientists do science.
- Engage in authentic particle physics investigations (that may or may not involve phenomenon known by scientists).
- Engage in authentic data analysis experience(s) using large data sets.
- Develop explanations of particle physics content.
- Discuss the concept of uncertainty in particle physics.
- Engage in project-based learning that models guided-inquiry strategies.
- Share ideas related to content and pedagogy.
- Review and select particle physics examples from the Data Activities Portfolio instructional materials.
- Use the pathways, suggested in the Data Activities Portfolio, to help design implementation plan(s).
- Construct classroom implementation plan(s), incorporating their experience(s) and Data Activities Portfolio instructional materials.
- Become aware of resources outside of their classroom.

Local Centers

Each center seeks to foster lasting relationships through collaboration at the local level and through engagement with the national program.

In addition, through sustained engagement provide opportunities for teachers and mentors to:

- Interact with other scientists and collaborate with each other.
- Build a local (or regional) learning community.

Program Outcomes

Teachers

Translate their experiences into instructional strategies, which reflect guided inquiry and NGSS science and engineering practice and other science standards as applicable^{3,4} Specifically:

- Discuss and explain concepts in particle physics.
- Engage in scientific practices and discourse.
- Use particle physics examples, including authentic data, when teaching subjects such as momentum and energy.
- Review and use instructional materials from the Data Activities Portfolio, selecting lessons guided by the suggested pathways.
- Facilitate student investigations that incorporate scientific practices.
- Use active, guided-inquiry instructional practices in their classrooms that align with NGSS and other science standards.
- Use instructional practices that model scientific research.
- Illustrate how scientists make discoveries.
- Use, analyze and interpret authentic data; draw conclusions based on these data.
- Become more comfortable teaching inquiry-based science.
- Use resources (including QuarkNet resources) to supplement their knowledge and instructional materials and practices.
- Increase their science proficiency.
- Develop collegial relationships with scientists and other teachers.
- Are lifelong learners.

⁴ College Board Advanced Placement science standards and practice; and AP Physics; International Baccalaureate Science standards and practices.

⁵ To the extent possible in their school setting.

(And their) Students will be able to:

- Discuss and explain particle physics content.
- Discuss and explain how scientists develop knowledge.
- Engage in scientific practices and discourse.
- Use, analyze and interpret authentic data; draw conclusions based on these data.
- Become more comfortable with inquiry-based science.

Local Centers

- Model active, guided-inquiry instructional practices that align with NGSS and other science standards that model scientific research.

Through engagement in local centers

Teachers as Leaders:

- Act in leadership roles in local centers and in their schools (and school districts) and within the science education community.
- Attend and/or participate in regional and national professional conferences sharing their ideas and experiences.

Mentors:

- Become the nexus of a community that can improve their teaching, enrich their research and provide broader impacts for their university.

Teachers and Mentors:

- Form lasting collegial relationships through interactions and collaborations at the local level and through engagement with the national program.

Enduring Understandings (See last page.)

Sustainability^a

Antecedents

Characteristics of the Specific Program

1. Fidelity to PTM core strategies as implemented (national or center level)^b
2. Evidence of flexibility/adaptability at the center level (if/as needed)
3. Evidence of effectiveness

Organizational Setting at the Center-level Program^c

1. (Good) fit of program with host's organization and operations
2. Presence of an internal champion(s) to advocate for the program
3. Existing capacity and leadership of the organization to support program
4. Program's key staff or clients believe in the program (believe it to be beneficial)

Specific Factors Related to the Center-level Program

1. Existing supportive partnerships of local organizations (beyond internal staff)
2. Potentially available/existing funders or funding
3. Manageable costs (resources and personal; supported by volunteers)^d

Outcomes

1. Program components or strategies are continued (sustained fidelity in full or in part).^e
2. Benefits or outcomes for target audience(s) are continued.^e
3. Local/center-level partnerships are maintained.^f
4. Organizational practices, procedures and policies in support of program are maintained.
5. Commitment/attention to the center-level program and its purpose is sustained.^f
6. Program diffusion, replication (in other sites) and/or classroom adaptation occur.^f

Core Values/Assumptions

QuarkNet provides opportunities:

1. That seek to meet the needs and interests of participating teachers.
2. For participating teachers and mentors to form collegial relationships that are an integral part of the QuarkNet experience.
3. Where participating teachers are professionals.
4. For teachers to get together to discuss physics and to form learning communities.
5. Where QuarkNet centers are central to building a national program and are an effective way to do outreach.

6. Where QuarkNet fellows are integral in helping the program reach teachers.
7. To help keep high school physics teachers interested and motivated in teaching and to help teachers avoid burnout.
8. Where a diversity of ideas is brought into the program to help the long-term commitment by teachers/mentors to the program.
9. To help build and improve science literacy in teachers and their students.
10. To help teachers build confidence and comfort in teaching guided-inquiry physics.

The program is based on the premise that:

11. All students are capable of learning science.
12. Science is public, especially in physics where many researchers collaborate together on the same experiments.
13. The program should strive to achieve equity in language and behavior relative to race, ethnicity and gender.
14. Through the program, teachers are able to go back to their classroom with enthusiasm and with ideas that they can use to appeal to the imagination of their students.
15. Master teachers as staff are effective PD facilitators and center contacts.

^aThis framework is based on the work of Scheirer and Dearing (2011); adopting their definition of sustainability, as well: "Sustainability is the continued use of program components and activities for the continued achievement of desirable program and population outcomes" (p. 2060). The QuarkNet Sustainability framework has been modified to better reflect the QuarkNet program (as recommended by Scheirer, et al., 2017). (See notes below.)

^bProgram fidelity, as *implemented*, has been added as a program characteristic.

^cThe language used to describe these organizational characteristics has been modified slightly to better fit the *QuarkNet* program.

^dThis cost component was moved to environmental or contextual concerns of the specific program.

^eThe order of these two outcomes are reversed from the original.

^fThe language of this characteristic was modified to better fit the QuarkNet program.

Enduring Understandings of Particle Physics

1. Scientists make a claim based on data that comprise the evidence for the claim.
2. Scientists use models to make predictions about and explain natural phenomena.
3. Scientists can use data to develop models based on patterns in the data.
4. Particle physicists use data to determine conservation rules.
5. Indirect evidence provides data to study phenomena that cannot be directly observed.
6. Scientists can analyze data more effectively when they are properly organized; charts and histograms provide methods of finding patterns in large datasets.
7. Scientists form and refine research questions, experiments and models using observed patterns in large data sets.
8. The Standard Model⁵ provides a framework for our understanding of matter at its most fundamental level.
9. The fundamental particles are organized according to their characteristics in the Standard Model.
10. Particle physicists use conservation of energy and momentum to measure the mass of fundamental particles.
11. Fundamental particles display both wave and particle properties, and both must be taken into account to fully understand them.
12. Particle physicists continuously check the performance of their instruments by performing calibration runs using particles with well-known characteristics.
13. Well-understood particle properties such as charge, mass, momentum and energy provide data to calibrate detectors.
14. Particles that decay do so in a predictable way, but the time for any single particle to decay, and the identity of its decay products, are both probabilistic in nature.
15. Particle physicists must identify and subtract background events in order to identify the signal of interest.
16. Scientists must account for uncertainty in measurements when reporting results.

Based on the work of: Darling-Hammond, L., et al. (2017, June) and Wiggins, G. J. & McTighe, J. (2005). Developed for QuarkNet by Young, Roudebush, Smith & Wayne, 2019, revised 2021.

⁵ The [Standard Model of Particle Physics](#): the current theoretical framework that describes elementary particles and their forces (six leptons, six quarks and four force carriers). Physicists (and other scientists) can understand every phenomenon observed in nature by the interplay of the elementary particles and forces of the Standard Model. The search beyond the Standard Model of Particle Physics may lead to a larger, more elegant “theory of everything.”