



QuarkNet

Stories from the classroom

I have been a QuarkNet Lead Teacher since 2002. During this time, I have had the opportunity to work with >100 teachers from the state of Minnesota. Also, during this time, I have had approximately 2000 students come through my classes. All, teachers and students, have benefitted from the work of the QuarkNet national leadership and all have had the opportunity to learn more about particle physics and the research that is involved.

Since 2002, I have taken several groups of teachers to Chicago/Fermilab as well as to the MINOS experiment and the NOvA experiments in Minnesota. I have also taken groups of students (~50/group) to Chicago and to the Fermilab 14 times. The purpose of all of these trips is to expose the participants to the labs and facilities where high energy physics research is performed.

However, the highlight of my QuarkNet-related trips was a 2008 trip to CERN for Open Days. I was able to take three students as “Student Reporters” on a fully funded five-day trip. The students were able to interview many different CERN scientists and we were treated to “behind the scenes” tours of numerous CERN detectors and facilities. In addition to the video that my students made of their interviews and tours, they also presented at a spring meeting of the Minnesota Association of Physics Teachers (MnAPT).

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