



QuarkNet

Stories from the classroom

The QuarkNet program at Medford High School with Dr. Wadness provided me an opportunity to investigate research fields in high energy particle physics. My passion for radiation detection and analysis stemmed from the strong foundation provided by the both the Cosmic Ray Club and the Masterclass. Without the QuarkNet programs I would not have continued on the same educational track in radiation physics. The equipment provided hands on experience that is not normally available in a traditional high school setting. I was able to start off with basic cosmic ray detection in high school and ultimately progressed to collaborating with the top scientists in the world in neutron detection. Right after graduating from high school, experimenting with the scintillation detectors in the Cosmic ray club was an invaluable experience for applying to my undergraduate student work. I advanced my research while becoming the operator for the 5.5MeV Van de Graaff accelerator at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. I am currently in my final year for my Ph.D. in physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and have been awarded with the Seaborg Research Fellowship to advance neutron imaging techniques at Los Alamos National Lab. The Cosmic Ray Club combined with the Masterclass taught data collection with data analysis which is critical for every research scientist.

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