

The SCIPP QuarkNet Summer Teacher's Workshop –
Bringing the Abstract to the Realm of the Real

I am a brand new Physics teacher. I have had a complete career outside of teaching, and I have taught subjects other than Physics. This upcoming teaching challenge was going to be a brand new opportunity for me. New opportunities require new experiences. QuarkNet and SCIPP provided those experiences.

Until this workshop, Cosmic Rays were as nebulous to me as the dying stars from which they emit. I had a rough (VERY rough) idea how they were formed and how they arrived here. QuarkNet, and the Cosmic Ray Detectors they provided, gave me a solid, hands-on understanding of the muon detection process. I now know how these little rascals are detected and measured, and am much more comfortable explaining them to my incoming 9th graders this fall.

The opportunity to sit side-by-side with some of the top Theoretical and Experimental Astrophysicists in the world was an honor and an educational jackpot! Having them look over and advise my experiments was like learning to paint from Michelangelo. These renowned scientists made me feel welcome, and I am truly grateful to SCIPP and QuarkNet for this amazing experience. If it is offered again next year, I look forward to attending in 2009!