

July 20, 2007

Michael Wadness named QuarkNet Fellow, honored for innovative science teaching

Michael Wadness of Natick, a physics teacher at Medford High School in Medford, has been named a fellow by the QuarkNet Collaboration, a national science education program that provides teachers and students with the tools to conduct scientific research in the classroom. QuarkNet partners high school teachers and students with scientists participating in a variety of particle physics experiments, including experiments at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, and the European laboratory, CERN, in Geneva, Switzerland.

QuarkNet Fellows are teachers selected for their outstanding work in the classroom and their collaborating work with other teachers to advance the teaching and learning of science. Fellows receive a stipend and support to attend a QuarkNet leadership program, hosted at one of the participating scientific institutions. Fellows are trained to offer professional development activities for other teachers, certifying them as QuarkNet master teachers.

This year's QuarkNet Fellows completed a weeklong leadership program at Fermilab. Michael joined the group working on the Virtual LHC Center. Teachers designed the Virtual LHC Center, an online meeting place for physics teachers and students to learn about the Large Hadron Collider. The LHC will commence operation in May 2008 as the highest-energy particle accelerator in the world. The VHLC fellows will manage the center and its online presence and help other teachers join. As well as a meeting place, teachers will find learning activities, make contact with LHC physicists, share classroom experience and more. The leadership program also covered leadership characteristics, professional development strategies and styles of learning.

Marge Bardeen, QuarkNet spokesperson, commented, "It is a pleasure to collaborate with exceptional teachers like Michael Wadness. Teachers find coming to Fermilab an extraordinary opportunity to explore an outstanding research facility, interact with world-renown physics and master teachers, and learn to engage their students in 21st century science."

In its ninth year, QuarkNet is supported in part by the National Science Foundation and the Office of High Energy Physics of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science. Additional support comes from universities, national laboratories and particle physics experiments whose researchers volunteer as QuarkNet mentors. More information on QuarkNet is at <http://quarknet.fnal.gov>.

Fermilab is the home of the Tevatron, the world's highest-energy particle accelerator, and a leader in the development of accelerator technology since the laboratory's founding in 1967. Fermilab collaborates closely with laboratories around the world on R&D for the proposed International Linear Collider and accelerator facilities proposed for Illinois. Particle beams from Fermilab's accelerator complex are used to treat cancer patients on site at the Neutron Therapy Facility. Fermilab is managed by the [Fermi Research Alliance, LLC](#) for the [U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science](#).