



As a high school student I was introduced to particle physics through QuarkNet and collider Masterclasses. The interest sparked by these school activities has since grown into a full-fledged career in astroparticle physics, as I am now a postdoctoral fellow at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) in Germany. I can definitively say that having participated in the QuarkNet program while in high school gave me an early advantage in my career, and continues to do so today. Thanks to the strong knowledge base that I acquired prior to University, I was trusted to collaborate on construction and analysis of cutting edge particle physics experiments during the entire duration of my undergraduate studies. Indeed one of my first supervisors, Professor Young-Kee Kim, was introduced to me during a QuarkNet-sponsored visit to Fermilab. My undergraduate research experiences helped to prepare me for my PhD studies, which I completed in the short span of three and a half years. Now as a young postdoctoral researcher I have developed the skills required to not only continue my own research, but also to mentor and supervise students, and take on a leadership role within my experiment as the calibration group convener.

I have never forgotten the joy that I experienced as a high school student during my first particle physics Masterclass, nor the significant advantages the QuarkNet program afforded me on my path to becoming a particle physicist. As such, I regularly keep in touch with members of the QuarkNet team both in the United States and here in Germany, and offer my assistance to the program where ever it is needed. Most often this takes place in the form of participation in Masterclass activities or conducting them myself several times per year. Masterclasses continue to be some of the highest points in the year for me, and are a thoroughly rewarding experience. Public outreach is absolutely critical for scientists of any field, including physics, as our research is not possible without the support of taxpayers. I truly believe that QuarkNet is an excellent program that succeeds not only in public engagement, but also in inspiring the next generations of scientists.

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