QuarkNet has opened a door for my students and me to study particle physics like a particle physicist. The first group of students I had learned the code to operate our cosmic ray muon detector and built a computer out of spare parts from the tech office. The second group working on this taught themselves CAD to design and build a rotating muon telescope arm and support base. The third group wrote a user manual to pass along to the next group of independent research students that we have been refining for the past two years. Many of the students that have been involved in the one-half credit elective have gone on to study physics or some other area of scientific research. QuarkNet has been the sole reason for this initial experience which sparked their interest.

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