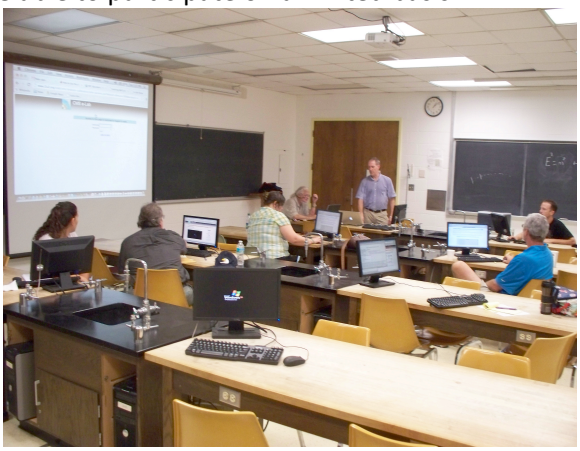
Florida State University – The FSU High Energy Physics group continues to sponsor our local *QuarkNet* efforts as it has since joining as an inaugural member of *QuarkNet* over ten years ago. During the past three years the FSU *QuarkNet* center has interacted with physics-related research institutions in our community. This past year has seen support from researchers directly affiliated with Florida State University. Past speakers and laboratory visits have involved the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the Center for Advanced Power Systems, the High Performance Materials Institute. The major thrust of this year's efforts was a five-day workshop held on the campus of Florida State University, coordinated by lead teacher Brian McClain and FSU Professor Horst Wahl. The workshop directly involved seven male and female teachers from the areas of Leon and Wakulla school districts and one private school. During one working lunch generously hosted by FSU Physics, we discussed steps to take to improve physical science education and also celebrated that one of our own QuarkNet teachers, Steve Fannin, is the most recent awardee for Florida's Presidential Award in Math and Science Teaching. In addition, several past teacher members were able to participate on a limited basis.



Photograph(*right*) Legend: The FSU *QuarkNet* professional learning community receives an all-day session with Mr. Tom Loughran, Professional Specialist with Notre Dame, on the new CMS eLab Workshop. http://cmse-lab.michianastem.org/FSU

This physical science professional learning community continues to focus on three main concepts: modern science, nuclear and particle physics. The workshop agenda included conversations on particle physics with special emphasis on the Higgs boson announcements. Six of the members in the learning community have been to CERN and two informally shared their experiences. Activities dealt with: integrating modern physics with the Common Core ELA Literacy in Science Standards for the physics, chemistry, and physical science classes, a continued discussion of what happens at the atomic and subatomic scale during different particle collisions, and using physical science-related and nature of science-related reading passages in a science classroom. Our post-workshop surveys still continue to indicate the top two desires of the group for future sessions are: more on the basics of the Standard Model and for experience using web-based resources for students. The FSU *QuarkNet* group has additional members who were unable to attend this workshop but who do plan to continue their participation as their schedules and school calendars allow.

A significant achievement of the workshop this year was an entire day-long session led by Mr. Tom Loughran, Professional Specialist with the University of Notre Dame, who came to Tallahassee and instructed the teachers on the new CMS e-Lab Workshop that is available to teachers and for use with students.

Our plans for the 2012-2013 include several shorter sessions during the school year to which we will invite new and returning members of the physical sciences and education communities.