



News Release: For Immediate Release

Contact: Barak Green
(858) 481-4400
bgreen@qdusa.com

Quantum Design Launches Education Initiative at
Seminar and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for UCSD Physics Department

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – November 5, 2014 – Quantum Design, a technology company co-founded with UCSD alumni, announced that as part of a larger educational initiative it will provide funding to support state-of-the-art lab equipment and a new physics-based curriculum in the UCSD Physics Department.

Physics majors at the University of California, San Diego now will have the opportunity to gain experience and training on the same high-tech tools that academia and industry researchers use. The San Diego-based technology company is providing in-kind and cash gifts totaling \$279,000 to update and modernize lab courses and instructional materials in the department of physics.

“UC San Diego department of physics alumni have played important roles in leadership, research and development at Quantum Design,” said Chief Technical Officer Stefano Spagna, who earned his Ph.D. in materials science from the campus in 1995. “We know that the ability for UC San Diego students to have direct access to state-of-the-art research equipment and technology, coupled with instruction in the foundations of physics, creates an ideal training ground for the next generation of physicists to work in numerous fields.”

Both Spagna and Neil Dille, applications physicist at Quantum Design, did their graduate studies with UC San Diego professor Brian Maple. They credit the experience with teaching them to be persistent in problem solving, to think critically and to drive their own research projects—qualities that have helped them to be successful in their professional careers.

“Part of this gift is about giving back to the university, and to the prestigious physics department that taught us so much,” said Dille, who earned his Ph.D. in physics in 1999. “We want to do our part to help educate and train today’s students.” The department of physics and Quantum Design are collaborating to develop new curricula for undergraduates that will provide practical experience using the latest research tools. In addition to learning the tools, the training is intended to teach students how to use their physics background to think critically about scientific experiments, rather than taking a passive, “push-button” approach to conducting research.

All of these efforts are part of a larger education initiative that Quantum Design would like to expand in the future. “We would eventually like to offer these materials online in the form of digital curricula and expanded educational materials in the fields of physics and materials science” added Stefano Spagna.

In honor of the gift, the department of physics hosted an invite-only symposium and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Quantum Design Teaching and Materials Discovery Lab on Saturday, Oct. 18. Speakers at the symposium included Brian Maple (UCSD), James Eckert (Harvey Mudd College), Edward Price (CSU San Marcos), John Neumeier (Montana State University), and Milton Torikachvili (SDSU).

About Quantum Design

Founded in 1982, Quantum Design Inc. is a privately held corporation that develops and markets advanced technology cryogenic systems and instruments for the scientific community. Quantum Design is widely recognized as the leading commercial source for integrated laboratory analytical systems incorporating superconducting technology. In addition, through its strong R&D focus and direct foreign offices in the world’s major technology markets, Quantum Design International has developed a worldwide distribution channel for its own industry leading instruments as well as for research-based instruments developed by other technology leaders.