

Citizen Science With The EPIcenter and Quake-Catcher Networks: Promoting Seismology Research and Activities in Formal and Free-Choice Learning Venues

The Quake-Catcher Network (QCN) is a collaborative initiative for developing the world's largest, low-cost strong motion seismic network by utilizing sensors attached to internet-connected computers. Managed by Stanford University, the United States Geological Survey Pasadena Field Office, and the Southern California Earthquake Center, QCN empowers individuals to improve earthquake monitoring, fosters earthquake awareness, and promotes knowledge about the science of earthquakes. QCN uses low-cost seismic sensors to record data in real-time on volunteer computers and engages participants in authentic science. The primary goal of this project is to develop a pilot program to facilitate the installation and marketing of the QCN sensors for research and broader impacts activities in schools and venues that provide free-choice learning opportunities such as museums. To facilitate this, members of the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) Education and Public Information Center (EPIcenter) Network – whose commitment is to encouraging earthquake and tsunami preparedness by demonstrating leadership in risk-reduction and education – have taken part in this endeavor, thus forming the joint QCN-EPIcenter Seismic Network. As of spring 2015, there are more than 130 schools and free-choice learning institutions participating in the QCN-EPIcenter Seismic Network throughout California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Various promotional and informational products have been developed to encourage the growth of the Network, including flyers, stickers, installation guides, activity guides, and a website in the works.

