

A Model for Cross-institutional Collaboration: Addressing Diminishing Resources in Academia

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When resources are limited, it can be difficult for one college or institution to maintain funding and academic rigor. We explore an emerging educational model that addresses the needs of universities and infrastructures. The Intercollegiate Biomathematics Alliance (IBA) was created in 2014 by Illinois State University with the goal of creating a consortium of institutions dedicated to meeting educational and funding needs for biomathematics, ecology, and other related fields. Now connecting fourteen member institutions across the United States, we explore how the IBA combats diminishing resources and creates novel opportunities for students and faculty alike. What kind of impact does an academic network have on education? What could other disciplines gain from adapting a similar paradigm? These are a few of the questions we hope to address.