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**Suzanne Lenhart\*** (lenhart@math.utk.edu), University of Tennessee, Dept. of Math. 227 Ayres Hall, 1403 Circle Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996-1320, and **Kelly Sturner** (ksturner@nimbios.org), National Institute for Math. & Bio. Synthesis, University of Tennessee, 1122 Volunteer Blvd. Suite 106, Knoxville, TN 37996-3410. *Mentoring Collaboration for REU Groups at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics.*

Developing collaboration skills is key for both the 21st century mathematician- and scientist-in-training. We discuss the practices and activities we use for our undergraduate researchers who, in a short span of time, must learn to work together with other students and mentors from different cultural and disciplinary backgrounds on interdisciplinary projects that involve modeling, data and biological questions. Students learn to understand the value of different contributions to a common goal, negotiating roles, and the real challenges and benefits of working with a diverse team. We use explicit instruction in the nature of science and opportunities for individual and group reflection and self-evaluation to facilitate collaborative skill-building and a functional group dynamic. (Received September 04, 2014)