

Life After My BEER Intervention

Carrie Diaz Eaton¹

¹*Digital and Computational Studies, Bates College, Lewiston, ME 04240*

cdeaton@bates.edu

Many years ago, I attended my first BEER conference, unsure what to expect, but completely welcomed into the community. It was there that I began to imagine the power of community and collaboration. I did not realize at the time that the formal framework was called collective action. After my “BEER Intervention,” I saw that I was not alone in my journey to improve quantitative education for life science and sustainability science. Furthermore, I hypothesized that working together to move education research forward and to make broader transformational change would be more powerful than working alone. This led to the formation of the QUBES Consortium of which I am Director, and the broader QUBES project (qubeshub.org). In fact, QUBES tagline is “The power of math biology community.” In this talk, I discuss our community successes, our current challenges, the shifting landscape, and ask what will our community do moving forward. This is an amazing time where we have the opportunity to shape the conversation about what data science education for the life sciences will look like, not just in content, but in who we are teaching. Perhaps our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity is in shaping not just the math or the biology, but who this “community” will be.