

# **Where have all the Students Gone?:An Analysis of Under-enrolled Majors in the Soil and Plant Sciences. (A01-collins112854-Oral)**

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## **Abstract:**

Land Grant Universities (LGU) are critically evaluating undergraduate majors in which enrollment is 'under-enrolled'. Under-enrolled means too few students to continue offering the major or enrollment that has been declining. An analysis of soil and plant sciences undergraduate majors over the last 10 years was made to determine enrollment trends. All 1862 and 1890 LGU initially were considered. Sixteen LGU were selected for detailed study. Objectives were: 1) to document the enrollment trends in soil science and plant science, and 2) to comprehend why these trends are taking places. We wanted to know if the trends were national, regional, or local. What can be done to reverse the trend? Other circumstances included the complexity associated with analyzing the data because of different names and descriptions of the majors; departments in which they are associated; and the establishment of Schools (e.g. School of Natural Resources) within Colleges of Agriculture. Undergraduate enrollments in soil or plant sciences generally have been declining for the past 10 years. Because of this decline, some LGU have combined or eliminated the major(s). So, 'What is the future of our profession?'

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