

Hiba Laaroussi  
Winooski School District  
10<sup>th</sup> grade

Good morning, my name is Hiba Laaroussi and I am currently a sophomore at Winooski High School. I am very honored to be at the State House to speak to you about the importance of the third space. Recently, I have been hired as a mentor for the Medtrek program offered to Winooski Middle school students. Medtrek is a health science careers exploration program with hands-on activities, field trips, and interactions with medical professionals. As a mentor I am responsible for supporting the youth with their learning, leading some cool activities that are offered, taking pictures and keeping a record of student reflections. This position also puts me out of my comfort zone and pushes me to learn more.

I was a Medtrek student in the program two years ago and this year I wanted to experience it from a Mentor's point a view. My mentors helped me expand my interest in the health career so I wanted to give back and do the same for other students. My two friends, Dah Ler Moo and Sophia decided to participate because they wanted to be a part of a program that exposes middle school students to health careers. So far, I see the students having so much fun learning from us and from each other especially when they were listening to each other's heartbeats and taking each other's blood pressure. This is why learning in the third-space is excellent. It is different from a traditional class environment because it includes so many hands-on experiences to enhance learning and make it more enjoyable. After getting a feel for what it is like to teach other students some skills that we learned, we want to put together a fun program for elementary students to help them start thinking about their future and getting them excited to learn.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.