

# TriCorner News

*from The Lakeville Journal,  
The Millerton News and The Winsted Journal*

Published on *TriCornerNews* (<http://tricornernews.com>)

[Home](#) > Students get a glimpse into their possible future through Scrubs Club

## Students get a glimpse into their possible future through Scrubs Club

Wed, 08/31/2016 - 3:26pm [The Millerton News Editorial](#) <sup>[1]</sup> [Opinion/Viewpoint](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

Practical experience — in any given field — is critical to learning. Not all of us are fortunate enough to be exposed to such training before joining a trade or profession, but those who do certainly have a leg up on those who don't.

The Scrubs Club, piloted at Dover High School four years ago and picked up by Webutuck High School, among others, is the perfect example. It is a health career program for youth that has recently won a national award for its forward thinking and obvious success.

Developed and initiated by Gertrude O'Sullivan, director of communications and special programs at the Foundation for Community Health in Sharon, Conn., Scrubs Club is an activity-based, health career exploration program that challenges students while teaching them a spectrum of health occupations with hands-on activities and focused field trips. What it accomplishes as a result is that participating students get a taste of the health care field to see if they'd be interested in pursuing such work after graduation.

And it works.

The pilot program began in the fall of 2012 in Dover, and by spring of 2015 it had undergone an evaluation. Participation in the daytime curriculum, as well as in the program as an after-school club, was shown to have its benefits. The results of the evaluation showed that 90 percent of the students enrolled in Scrubs Club planned on continuing their education. What's more, 85 percent of those enrolled had decided to pursue health care careers as a result of participating in the club.

Wow — those numbers are proof positive that hands-on, practical experience can shape futures. Students in the Dover program now have a head start on their careers, and at the same time residents in the Harlem Valley have a better guarantee that health care professionals will continue to serve in the region. That's key, because there's been a lack of health care workers in the area for a number of years, which is what motivated O'Sullivan to start up Scrubs Club in the first place.

Now, Scrubs Club is being utilized in 10 school districts throughout New York state as well as in nine other states, multiplying the number of our youth who will benefit from such exposure early in their lives.

Scrubs Club sets a great example of what a career in the health care field could look like. Simply put, it gives students a chance to experiment in professions that interest them now and may employ them later.

If only all students had the opportunity to try their hand in fields that interest them, as some do through internships and after-school jobs. After all, the first steps to one's future career have to begin somewhere. Thanks to Scrubs Club, its members have a direction in which to head after graduating high school — and the Harlem Valley has the promise of more health care workers in its future. It's a win-win.

TriCornerNews - The Lakeville Journal Co., LLC ©2016. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Contact Us](#)

**Source URL:** <http://tricornernews.com/node/47677>

**Links:**

[1] <http://tricornernews.com/category/opinion-author/millerton-news-editorial>

[2] <http://tricornernews.com/category/articlelead-category/millerton-news/opinionviewpoint>