

October 2023

A report from the October 2023 meeting of EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee. EASTERN is a part of the school districts of Abington, Bryn Athyn, Cheltenham, Hatboro-Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland.

Summary

- October Student of the Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Donations
- National Technical Honor Society Food Drive
- Personnel
- Cooperative Education
- September 30 Enrollment

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

**November 8, 2023

**December 13, 2023

January 10, 2024

February 14, 2024

**March 13, 2024

April 10, 2024

**May 8, 2024

June 19, 2024

**Seminar Room 8 PM

*Get the Board Brief by email
contact Amy Shields
for more information at
ashields@eastech.org
215.784.4806*

Visit our website

www.eastech.org

October Student of the Month

Reese Fichter, an Upper Dublin High School senior, is the October 2023 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Reese is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Culinary Arts program. The Student of the Month Award is sponsored by EASTERN's faculty, Joint Operating Committee, and the Willow Grove Rotary Club to highlight student excellence, success, and service. Ten students each year are selected for this honor.

During the pandemic, Reese spent a lot of time in the kitchen baking with her grandmother. She found baking made her feel better and helped her get through that challenging time. She had a friend who was in EASTERN's Allied Health program and told her that they also have a Culinary Arts program. As a junior in the program, she emerged as a leader in the class and was nominated by the Culinary Arts Instructional Aide, Chef Nicole Suanlarm for a Women's History Month student spotlight.

Reese was selected by her EASTERN instructors to attend the Career and Technical Student Organization Fall Leadership Conference in November 2022. In January 2023, Reese placed second in the SkillsUSA District 2 Competition in Job Demo A, where she demonstrated how to make Irish Potatoes. At EASTERN's Awards Night in May 2023, Reese received the Director's Award and the Straight A Award. Also, in May, Reese was inducted into EASTERN's first National Technical Honor Society. During her junior year, she was the student representative for EASTERN's Culinary Arts Occupational Advisory Committee, and participated in a student focus group on improving student life at EASTERN. At Upper Dublin High School, Reese enjoys being part of Upper Dublin's Mini Thon program to raise money for pediatric cancer research. Outside of school, Reese works at Pennpack Mill as a catering server.

"Reese is extremely motivated, and is always willing to help her peers," said Chef Charlie Zachmann, EASTERN Culinary Arts Instructor. "She enjoys collaborating with other students and being involved in EASTERN activities and competitions. I am proud of all of her accomplishments."

After graduation, Reese is interested in Johnson and Wales University. She would like to learn more about the business side of the industry so that she can one day open her own bakery.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

During September, EASTERN recognized two Allied Health Students for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Alexander Dejesus is an Abington Senior High School/EASTERN Allied Health senior.

Alexander was nominated for this student spotlight by his Allied Health Instructor, Ms. Allison Latzo, who appreciates his enthusiasm for the healthcare field. Alexander's parents were born in the State of Puebla, located in east-central Mexico. After high school, Alexander plans to enlist in the Air Force to become a Pararescue, or the Army to become a Combat Medic.

Soila Portnoy is a Cheltenham High School/EASTERN Allied Health senior. Soila was nominated for this student spotlight by her Allied Health Instructor, Ms. Allison Latzo, who is impressed with Soila's passion for the medical field and her desire to be involved in EASTERN's student leadership. Soila's parents both originally came from Columbia. Soila learned early on that her career would be in the medical field when her sister was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at just 3 years old.

Donations

EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee approved the following donations:

Metal was donated by **Mondello's Auto Body** for us in the Collision Repair Technology program.

Firefighting Bunker Pants were donated by the **Abington Fire Department** for use in the Protective Services program.

National Technical Honor Society Food Drive

EASTERN's NTHS will hold a canned food drive to benefit the Warminster Food Bank from October 30 – November 10, 2023.

Personnel***Robotics and Automated Technology Instructor Resignation***

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the resignation of Christopher Passante, EASTERN's Robotics and Automated Technology Instructor. Mr. Passante has served EASTERN since 2020.

Cooperative Education/Internship Placements

The following students were approved to participate in internships as part of EASTERN's cooperative education program:

- Jack Gormley (Hatboro-Horsham/Construction) to work at Ross Construction and Masonry under the supervision of Michael Ross.
- Giovanni Tulaba (Abington/Construction) to work at Mark Lesser General Contractor under the supervision of Mark Lesser.
- Sean Durkin and Nicolas Caruso (Springfield/Robotics and Automated Technology) to work at Align Precision under the supervision of Jaimie Hoffman.
- Jake Richards (Upper Moreland/Welding Technology) to work at Albert C. Phy & Sons under the supervision of Matt Phy.

September 30 Enrollment

The official September 30th enrollment is 633 students with 38 students still on a wait list.

Waitlisted programs are Automotive Technology – 9 students, Construction Technology – 2 students, Cosmetology – 1 student, Electrical Technology – 7 students, Exercise Science and Rehabilitation – 1 student, HVAC – 1 student, Veterinary Science – 4 students, and Welding Technology – 13 students.