

November 2023

A report from the November 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

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- Kiwanis Holiday Breakfast
- 2024 – 2025 Budget
- Presidential Scholar Nominees
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- New Occupational Advisory Committee Members Appointed
- Resolutions of Appreciation

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

**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

November Student of the Month

Jacob Richards, an Upper Moreland High School senior, is the November 2023 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Jacob is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Welding Technology 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.

Jacob already knew about some of the opportunities at EASTERN through his uncles who took Landscape Contracting several years ago. When Jacob was in tenth grade, he attended an EASTERN presentation at Upper Moreland High School. One of the student speakers at that presentation was in the Welding Technology program, and he immediately wanted to learn more about the program. Welding was already an interest of Jacob's, as his family has an at-home welding shop.

Since joining EASTERN's Welding Technology program as a junior, Jacob has seized every opportunity presented to him. He enjoys helping others and has found many ways to do so at EASTERN. As a junior, he volunteered as a Career Expo tour guide for potential EASTERN students. This year he volunteered as a student speaker at EASTERN's Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser held in September.

Due to his hard work and determination, Jacob has been afforded many leadership opportunities at EASTERN. His instructor chose him to attend the Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Leadership Conference in November 2022; he was part of the Chapter Display Team that won a bronze medal at the SkillsUSA State Competition in April 2023; he was inducted into EASTERN's first-ever National Technical Honor Society in May 2023; and he was chosen as a paid-intern to work on building improvements with EASTERN's Facilities Manager and Electrical Technology instructor during summer of 2023.

This year, Jacob was chosen as the student representative for the Welding Technology Occupational Advisory Committee -- a group of industry professionals who volunteer their time to work with EASTERN's instructors and administration to keep EASTERN's program cutting edge. Through his Welding Technology program, Jacob was recently approved for a paid internship at Albert C. Phy & Sons Precision Sheet Metal Fabrication in Willow Grove, where he will work as a TIG welder.

"Jacob is a dedicated and hardworking student," said Ms. Meghan Cicchino, EASTERN's Welding Technology Instructor. "He plans to go right into the industry and eventually build his own house. He is driven and focused, and always willing to help out a classmate or assist with a school fundraiser."

After graduation, Jacob plans to begin his career as a welder.

Donations

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following donation:

- **2002 Mazda Protege** was donated by Ken Piccari for use in the Collision Repair Technology program.
- **Name badges, Velcro, magnetic tape, and squad tags** were donated by Abington Fire Department for use in the Protective Services program.
- **150 pieces of mild steel** were donated by Airgas for use in the Welding Technology Program.
- **Three quarts of basecoat and ½ gallon of paint reducer** were donated by Mondello's Auto Body for use in the Collision Repair Technology program.

Kiwanis Holiday Breakfast – December 3, 2022

The Kiwanis Club of Old York Road will host their annual holiday breakfast at EASTERN on Sunday, December 3 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., and our Culinary Arts program to support them by making breakfast for the community participants. Both Culinary Arts Instructors and the Culinary Arts Instructional Aide were approved to be compensated for this event.

2024 – 2025 Budget Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's 2024 – 2025 budget and Capital Assessment as proposed in the last meeting and gave the authorization to transmit the budget to each of the participating School Boards for consideration and approval.

EASTERN CTE Presidential Scholar Nominees

EASTERN has nominated three students for CTE Presidential Scholar. If accepted by Pennsylvania, the student will be moved forward for national consideration.

- Timmy Tilson from Design, Photography, and Illustration/ Upper Dublin High School
- Lily Devlin from Design, Photography, and Illustration/ Abington Senior High School.
- Sherry Zheng from Networking and Cybersecurity/Upper Moreland High School

Foundation Fundraisers

The EASTERN Foundation exists to recognize outstanding EASTERN students through EASTERN's annual Awards program held each May. You can help by participating in our Pampered Chef Fundraiser or See's Candy fundraiser. Information can be found on www.eastech.org.

Personnel**New Robotics and Automated Technology Instructor Appointed**

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of Kyle Jacoby as the new Robotics and Automated Technology Instructor, effective November 13th and approved Charles Zachmann, Culinary Arts Instructor, as his mentor, for up to 20 hours. Mr. Jacoby comes to EASTERN from Solar Atmospheres Manufacturing where he has worked as an Electrical Designer since December 2006.

Cooperative Education/Internships

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following cooperative education supervisors for the following students:

- **Kevinson Shulski (Hatboro-Horsham/HVAC)** to work at S&H Heating and Air Conditioning under the supervision of **Harry Squares**.
- **Francesco Gargaglione (Abington/Automotive)** to work at Faulkner Infinity of Willow Grove under the supervision of **Chris Bors**.

EASTERN Appoints new Welding Technology Occupational Advisory Committee Members:

- Masea Paradis (Welder) Rhoads Industries
- Samuel Paulik (Apprentice Fab. Welder) Revtur Welding
- Jason Hammer (Project Manager) Rhoads Industries
- Ricky Collins (Welding Instructor) SEPTA

Resolutions of Appreciation

EASTERN's leadership team recognized our Joint Operating Committee, our November Student of the Month and his family, local legislators, exiting board members, and Superintendents at our annual Joint Operating Committee dinner catered by our Culinary Arts program.

EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee President Retires – Receives Distinguished Service Award

EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee President, Dr. Art Levinowitz, has come to the end of his term after serving on EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee for 20 years, most of which serving as President. We thank him for his vision, outstanding leadership and commitment to expand opportunities for EASTERN students.

Abington and Springfield Joint Operating Committee Members Recognized for Service

Mr. Daniel Kaye, EASTERN's Abington Board Member, and Dr. Carol Etlen, EASTERN's Springfield Township Board Member, were recognized for their service to EASTERN as they end their terms. We appreciate their support and guidance during their tenure on EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee.