

March 2024

A report from the March 2024 meeting of EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee (JOC). 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

- March Student of the Month
- School Calendar
- Occupational Advisory Committee Members Appointed
- Co-op/Internship Supervisors Approved
- Personnel Affairs
- Summer Schedule for 12-Month Full-Time Employees
- Donations
- SkillsUSA State Competition

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

April 10, 2024

**May 8, 2024

June 20, 2024

**Seminar Room 8 PM

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www.eastech.org

March Student of the Month

Gabriel Rodriguez, a Cheltenham High School senior, is the March 2024 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Gabriel is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Construction Technology program. The Student of the Month Award is sponsored by EASTERN's faculty, the 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.

Before enrolling in EASTERN's Construction Technology program, Gabriel was already interested in woodworking and engineering. During the summer of 2022, he was an apprentice for a small construction company in the Czech Republic, assisting in the building of mini homes and structural frames. When Gabriel was in tenth grade at Cheltenham, he visited EASTERN to see if it might be a good fit for him. Gabriel chose Construction Technology because he wanted to prepare for pursuing a postsecondary degree in Civil Engineering.

At EASTERN, Gabriel excels in his Construction Technology program and is a member of the National Technical Honor Society. In October 2023, Gabriel was selected for a National Hispanic Heritage Month Student Spotlight. As a junior, Gabriel received the Straight A award at EASTERN's annual Awards Night. Through his Construction Technology program, he received his OSHA certification in 2023, which ensures that he has been properly educated and tested on safe working conditions in his industry. At Cheltenham High School, Gabriel is part of the Pep Band and Indoor Drum Line, where he plays electric guitar and electric bass.

Mr. Jeff Pakula, EASTERN's Construction Technology Instructor, commended Gabriel as a committed student who exudes a positive attitude and maintains a professional demeanor. "Gabriel grasps concepts quickly and readily lends a helping hand to his classmates. I am proud that he is representing the Construction Technology program and EASTERN as Student of the Month," said Mr. Pakula.

Gabriel plans to spend the year after graduation in Germany volunteering his carpentry skills. When he returns, he plans to pursue postsecondary education with a major in Civil Engineering, and a minor in Music.

School Calendar

The Joint Operating Committee approved the calendar for students, teachers, and staff for the 2024-2025 school year. The final calendar will be posted shortly on www.eastech.org.

March 2024

Occupational Advisory Committee Members Appointed

The JOC approved the following new Occupational Advisory Committee members:

Cosmetology

- Jessica Derricks- Taire Hair Salon

Culinary Arts

- Joseph Jacques- Hospitality Institute of MCCC
- Robert Koeng - Emily's Café & Catering
- Logan Manton - High Steaks Ambler

Design, Photography, and Illustration

- Caitlin Flaherty - Delaware County Community College

Protective Services

- Kelli Scarlett - West Conshohocken Fire
- Edward Wurster - Bucks County Community College

Robotics

- Robert Bristow - Honeywell (Retired)

Training Supervisors Approved for Internship Placements

The JOC approved the following Training Supervisors for EASTERN's students:

- Christopher Bors from Faulkner Maserati -supervisor for Gabriel Slowe from Automotive/Cheltenham
- Daniel Wolsky from Wolsky Metal Fabrication - supervisor for Henry Fields from Welding/Upper Dublin
- Bret DeGerick from Acts Retirement Life Communities - supervisor for Corey Taylor from Culinary Arts/Upper Moreland
- Dawn Schultz from SPS Technologies- supervisor for Madelyn Ortega from Business and Technology/Hatboro-Horsham
- Joseph Ungar from ETC- supervisor for Richard Jones from Welding/Springfield
- Tom Stefanelli from A&S Sprinkler Co, Inc. - supervisor for Jacob Parkinson from Welding/Hatboro-Horsham

Personnel Affairs

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following appointments:

- Kenneth Molczan was approved as Incoming Practical Nursing Program Coordinator, effective April 2, 2024. Mr. Molczan will be named Practical Nursing Coordinator effective June 1, 2024.
- Jack McCarthy was approved as a Substitute Instructor for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Colleen Gedraitis was approved as Attendance Secretary effective May 1, 2024.
- Linda McAlpine, Admin. Assistant to the Executive Director was approved for extra time to cover Human Resources over the summer months.
- Eileen Collins, Admin. Assistant to the CTE Supervisor was approved as Admin. Assistant to the Assistant Director, effective June 3, 2024.
- Michele Zimmerman, Part-Time Admin. Assistant has been approved to work up to 10 hours per week to cover as Admin. Assistant to the Business Manager, effective March 18, 2024, through May 31, 2024.

BOARD BRIEF

Summer Schedule for 12-Month Full-Time Staff

The JOC approved a four-day workweek for summer staff at EASTERN.

Donations

The JOC approved the following donations:

- A transmitter, PLC, VFD, and misc. electronics were donated by Neil Goldberg for use in the Robotics and Automated Technology program.
- A Kohler Home standby generator was donated by Kyle Rousset for use in the Electrical Technology program

SkillsUSA State Competition

The Joint Operating Committee approved 31 students and 4 chaperones to attend the State Competition in Hershey from April 3 – 5, 2024. The student listed below received the gold medal at the SkillsUSA District Competition and will be moving on to the State Competition. Best of luck to our competitors!

- Greyson Stewart, Actions Skills – Design, Photography, and Illustration/Abington
- Gary Miller, Extemporaneous Speaking – Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Upper Dublin
- Morgan Robinson, Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl – Allied Health/Cheltenham
- Solia Portnoy, Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl – Allied Health/Cheltenham
- Alissa Mosley-Brittingham, Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl – Allied Health/Cheltenham
- Maymouna Ndoeye, Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl – Allied Health/Cheltenham
- Anna Rawlinson, Medical Terminology – Allied Health/Hatboro-Horsham
- Claire Zabalou, Nursing Assistant – Allied Health/Upper Moreland
- Carolyn Keim, T-Shirt Design – Design, Photography, and Illustration/Jenkintown
- Nicole Nevitt, Ad Design – Design, Photography, and Illustration/Abington
- Tori Simmons, Job Demo Open – Veterinary Science/Cheltenham
- Iona Stum, Medical Assisting – Allied Health/Springfield
- Jack Dempsey, Informational Services – Networking and Cybersecurity/Upper Dublin
- Sherry Zheng, Related Technical Math – Networking and Cybersecurity/Upper Moreland
- Wyatt Garofano, Internetworking – Networking and Cybersecurity/Cheltenham

And please consider supporting our Direct to State Competitors. They are currently raising funds to assist with expenses. Learn more here - <https://www.eastech.org/post-details/~board/news-releases/post/how-can-you-help-support-skillsusa-state-competitors-read-this>.