

April 2024

A report from the April 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

- April Student of the Month
- Policy – Calendar Revision
- Allied Health Agreement
- Program Reviews
- Donation
- Personnel Affairs
- Co-op Training Supervisors Approved
- Upcoming Facility Upgrades
- SkillsUSA State Competition

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

**May 8, 2024

June 20, 2024

**Seminar Room 8 PM

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April Student of the Month

Lily Devlin, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the April 2024 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Lily is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Design, Photography, and Illustration 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.

Lily learned about the Design, Photography, and Illustration program at EASTERN through a presentation at her high school called the 10th Grade Career Expo, where Abington sophomores had the opportunity to hear from current EASTERN students about their programs. Following this, she joined the Abington visit to EASTERN and was impressed by the program. Lily has always been interested in art and had taken several art classes at Abington Senior High School before attending EASTERN.

At EASTERN, Lily serves as the Occupational Advisory Committee student representative for the Design, Photography, and Illustration program, providing a valuable student perspective on curriculum and program issues. In February 2024, she was nominated by EASTERN as a Presidential Scholar and was selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the US Department of Education as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program in Career and Technical Education. From a pool of 600 nationwide finalists, the White House Commission will choose 161 students for this esteemed recognition. Lily was the sole Career and Technical candidate selected to represent Pennsylvania. In February, she also received a silver medal at the SkillsUSA District Competition in CTE Demo. Lily has earned Adobe InDesign and Illustrator certifications through her EASTERN program, which are standard in the graphic design industry. At EASTERN's 2023 Awards Night, Lily was awarded free tuition to an art camp at Penn College of Technology.

Lily is a member of the Abington Senior High School National Honor Society and is involved in numerous activities at Abington. She serves as Co-President of Our Minds Matter, a club that provides a safe space for students to discuss mental health issues. Additionally, Lily is a member of AbingTHON, a club that raises money for various charitable causes throughout the year. Over the summer, she participated in a t-shirt design contest for AbingTHON's Gold Out Football game in late September, which benefited pediatric cancer research. Her design was chosen for the event.

After graduation from Abington Senior High School and EASTERN, Lily plans to attend Thomas Jefferson University for a bachelor's degree in graphic design, and then pursue a career in that industry.

April 2024

BOARD BRIEF

Policy – Calendar Revision

The 2023 – 2024 EASTERN School Calendar was revised and approved showing snow days and Act 80-day count changes.

Allied Health Agreement

The Joint Operating Committee approved an agreement between EASTERN and Jefferson Health for Allied Health students to participate in clinical learning experiences.

Program Reviews

The Joint Operating Committee approved program reviews for the Cosmetology and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning programs.

Donation

Neil Goldberg, Occupational Advisory Committee member for Welding Technology, donated a Stainless Channel C2 for use in Welding Technology.

Personnel Affairs

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following:

- The Act 93 Administrative Compensation Plan was approved and will be effective 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2029.
- The Classified Handbook has been approved and will be effective 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2029.
- Kim Brunnet, MSN, RN, has been appointed as Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor.

Co-op Training Supervisors Approved

Thomas Toth from O'Donnell's Metal Fabrication was approved as Co-op Supervisor for Owen Fisher from HVAC/Hatboro-Horsham High School.

Jeff Orkin from Orkin Electric Systems, Inc. was approved as Co-op Supervisor for Kevin Clarke from Electrical Technology/Upper Moreland High School.

Upcoming Facility Upgrades

Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects were approved for Facility Renovations for Phases 4 and 5, as well as to prepare Comprehensive Safety Plans. This includes the update of EASTERN's HVAC system and renovations to the Culinary Arts program. The Joint Operating Committee also approved EASTERN's Public School Facility Improvement Grant Application in the amount of \$3.2M to be submitted to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

SkillsUSA State Competition

Thirty-one students from the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove attended the SkillsUSA State Competition in Hershey, PA from April 3 through April 5, 2024. Students from all over Pennsylvania took part in the competition. SkillsUSA is a national student leadership organization that encourages students to be productive individuals in our democratic society, work to their potential, become responsible, be proud of their accomplishments, and be supportive of their community. Medalists from EASTERN include:

Gold Medal Winners:

Promotional Bulletin Board – EASTERN Design, Photography, and Illustration students, Marin Goldfarb and Imani Holman/Cheltenham High School, and Kahlan Yaskowski/Springfield Township High School.

Silver Medal Winners

Extemporaneous Speaking – Gary Miller, EASTERN Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Upper Dublin High School

Health Occupations Portfolio– Cailyn Burdell-Williams, EASTERN Allied Health/Cheltenham High School

Photography – Celia DeFazio, EASTERN Design, Photography, and Illustration/Jenkintown High School

Bronze Medal Winners

Action Skills – Greyson Stewart, EASTERN Design, Photography, and Illustration/Abington Senior High School

Career Pathways – EASTERN Allied Health/Abington Senior High School students, Nijimah Hawkins, July Hernandez-Castillo, and Siobhan Mooney.

Chapter Display – Sean Krysztoforski, EASTERN Networking and Cybersecurity/Cheltenham High School; Sophia Steinberg, EASTERN Business and Technology Professional/Abington Senior High School; and Jane Rickards, EASTERN Robotics and Automated Technology/Abington Senior High School.

Information Technology Services – Jack Dempsey, EASTERN Networking and Cybersecurity/Upper Dublin High School

Job Skill Demo Open – Tori Simmons, EASTERN Veterinary Science/Cheltenham High School

T-Shirt Design – Carolyn Keim, EASTERN Design, Photography, and Illustration/Jenkintown High School

SkillsUSA State Officer for 2024 – 2025

Lillian Craney, EASTERN Veterinary Science/Springfield Township High School.