

May 2024

A report from the May 2024 meeting of EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee (JOC). EASTERN is part of the Abington, Bryn Athyn, Cheltenham, Hatboro-Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland school districts.

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Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

June 20, 2024 (via Zoom)

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www.eastech.org

May Student of the Month

Nelissa Bryan, a Cheltenham High School senior, is the May 2024 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Nelissa 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, 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.

Nelissa's journey into the Culinary Arts program at EASTERN began with a family connection, as her aunt is also a proud graduate of the program. Her passion for cooking and baking runs deep, inherited from her Abuela and great-great-grandmother, who passed down their culinary talents with love. Nelissa thrives in the program's hands-on learning environment, eagerly embracing every opportunity to hone her skills and prepare for her culinary future. Her goal is to open two cafes one day. One will honor her great-great-grandmother's baking legacy, featuring an array of macaroons, cookies, and specialty cupcakes. The other cafe will be a place where the underprivileged can experience the joy of fine dining, offering a unique and inclusive culinary experience. These cafes will not only showcase Nelissa's culinary skills but also her commitment to sharing her love of food with others.

At EASTERN, Nelissa goes above and beyond as a student ambassador for the Culinary Arts program. She has represented EASTERN at several major recruiting events, including the Career Expo visit, where potential students explore the school's offerings, and Open House, a chance for local families to tour the campus and meet instructors. Nelissa's involvement extends to EASTERN's Student Focus Group, where she contributes her insights, and she was chosen to be on a panel discussing and addressing microaggressions, displaying her leadership and advocacy skills. In February 2023, Nelissa was recognized with a student spotlight during EASTERN's Black History Month celebration. At EASTERN's 2023 Awards Night, Nelissa received the Director's Award and the Straight A Award.

Nelissa is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, proudly embracing her identity as part of the LGBTQ community. At Cheltenham High School, she is deeply engaged in the theatre program, highlighting her talents on stage. Outside of school, Nelissa is a dedicated dancer and serves as the captain of the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Drill Team.

After graduating from EASTERN and Cheltenham High School, Nelissa plans to attend Johnson & Wales University. There, she will pursue Culinary Arts and work toward earning a master's in culinary science, solidifying her expertise in the culinary field.

Cosmetology Summer Program Date Change

The Joint Operating Committee approved the Summer Cosmetology program to run from June 20 -July 24, 2024. A minor change was made in the start and end date due to snow days and Juneteenth.

May 2024

Dual Credit Grant – Training Conference

The Joint Operating Committee approved Meghan Cicchino, EASTERN's Welding Technology Instructor, to attend training for our new dual credit partnership with Penn College of Technology from May 9-10, 2024. This training will be paid for by the Dual Credit Grant.

SkillsUSA State Officer Training

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's newly elected State Officer, Lilian Craney, and her Veterinary Technology Instructor, Karen McGeehan to attend the SkillsUSA State Officers training at Lake Raystown Resort in Entiken, PA from June 2-4, 2024.

SkillsUSA National Competition

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's SkillsUSA advisors, Nicole Abruzzi and Karen McGeehan, to attend the SkillsUSA National Competitions, in Atlanta, GA, from June 21-28, 2024, along with the State Office, Lilian Craney, EASTERN Veterinary Science/Springfield Township High School student, and the three Gold Medalists, EASTERN Design, Photography, and Illustration students, Marin Goldfarb and Imani Holman/Cheltenham High School, and Kahlan Yaskowski/Springfield Township High School.

Practical Nursing Program Affiliations

The Joint Operating Committee approved a one-year agreement between Holy Redeemer and Eastern Center for Arts and Technology to permit Practical Nursing program students the opportunity and benefit of clinical experience effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

The Joint Operating Committee also approved a one-year agreement between St. Joseph's Manor and Eastern Center for Arts and Technology to permit Practical Nursing program students the opportunity and benefit of clinical experience effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

2024 – 2025 Preliminary Salary Guide for Teachers

The Joint Operating Committee approved the preliminary salary guide for the teachers.

Summer Electrical Work

The Joint Operating Committee approved Gary Felmey, EASTERN's Electrical Technology Instructor, to work up to 300 hours on electrical projects at the current contracted rate.

BOARD BRIEF

Administrative Assistant to Business Manager – Coverage

The Joint Operating Committee approved PT Administrative Assistant, Michele Zimmerman, to continue to work up to 10 hours per week to cover Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager through June 30, 2024.

Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor

Nailey Koch, BSN, RN, was approved as a Practical Nursing Program Adjunct Instructor.

Summer Electrical Interns

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Electrical Technology Interns to work up to 1,500 hours combined as directed by Gary Felmey and Fred Fox on electrical projects this summer.

- Jack McCafferty, Springfield SD / Robotics and Automated Technology
- Khafra Anyika, Cheltenham SD / Welding Technology
- DeWeese Smith, Springfield SD / Electrical Technology
- Ava Bartlett, Jenkintown SD / Welding Technology
- Harper Williamson, Cheltenham SD / Electrical Technology Summer

Technology Intern

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Technology Intern to work up to 80 hours combined as directed by Louis Geld on technology projects this summer.

- Michelle Korsah – Cheltenham SD / Networking and Cybersecurity

Co-op Students and Training Supervisors Approved

- Michael Marcelline from Airplus Mechanical LLC was approved as Supervisor for Domenic Giordano from HVAC/Upper Moreland
- Michael Spindler from MJS Electrical Contractors, Inc. was approved as Supervisor for Jayden Dayton from Electrical Technology/Hatboro-Horsham
- Bob Nowicki from Magicure Automotive Restoration as Supervisor for Theodore Stadanlick from Collision Repair Technology/Jenkintown
- Benjamin Burger from the Philadelphia Cricket Club was approved as Supervisor for Aneesa Anderson from Culinary Arts/Cheltenham, and Lisa Truong, Evan Sandy, and Ryan Higgins from Culinary Arts/Abington

Conferences for 2024 – 2025 School Year

The list of conferences for the 2024 – 2025 School Year was approved.