

August 2024

A report from the August 2024 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

- SkillsUSA National Competition
- 2024 – 2025 Registration
- Executive Advisory Committee Accomplishments
- Craft Fair
- SkillsUSA Fundraisers
- Practical Nursing Affiliation
- Policy C108, Social Events and Program Trips – Second Reading
- Renovations Phase IV and V of the Facilities Grant
- Personnel
- Physician of Record
- Appointment of Solicitor
- Designer Bag Bingo

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting
*Seminar Room 8 PM

September 11, 2024
October 9, 2024
*November 13, 2024
*December 11, 2024
January 8, 2025
February 12, 2025
*March 12, 2025
April 9, 2025
*May 14, 2025
June 18, 2025

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*Visit our website
www.eastech.org*

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Foundation online at:
<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/eastern-foundation/>*

EASTERN Students Win Bronze Medal in SkillsUSA National Competition

In June 2024, recent graduates Marin Goldfarb from Cheltenham High School, Kahlan Yaskowski from Springfield Township High School, and Carolyn Keim from Jenkintown High School, representing Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN), achieved a Bronze Medal at the SkillsUSA National Competition for Promotional Bulletin Board in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I am incredibly proud of my students and their unwavering determination," exclaimed Nicole Abruzzi, Design, Photography, and Illustration Instructor at EASTERN. "They not only demonstrated remarkable creativity but also operated as a unified team, brimming with innovative ideas and a deep mutual respect for each other."

The 2024 Promotional Bulletin Board competition had the theme "No Limits." Marin, Kahlan, and Carolyn chose to feature non-traditional EASTERN students on their board. Their goal was to showcase these students as examples of pursuing career aspirations without conforming to societal norms.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the national culmination of a year-long process that begins in local SkillsUSA chapters across the country. Local winners advance to district or regional competitions, testing their skills against competitors from other schools. Those winners advance to state competitions each spring, and state gold medalists earn the right to compete nationally at the SkillsUSA Championships each June. Along with gold, silver, and bronze medallions, competitors may earn scholarships, tools of the trade, and more.

In EASTERN's Design, Photography, and Illustration program, students develop their own portfolio. This two-year career program covers everything from conceptual drawing and design to a professional portfolio. Students learn the value and application of their unique styles in both design and illustration and how to use industry-standard software on the Macintosh platform. Core software includes Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Upon completion of the program, students will have a portfolio consisting of items for entry into their postsecondary school of choice as well as National Portfolio Day.

2024 – 2025 Registration

EASTERN enrollment for the 2024 – 2025 enrollment is currently 699, with 93 students on a waitlist. We are at 94 percent capacity.

August 2024

Executive Advisory Committee Accomplishments

Mr. Joseph Greb, Assistant Director, presented to the Joint Operating Committee regarding all EAC accomplishments throughout the year. Notable accomplishments included approval of an equipment budget for 2025 – 2026 that will benefit Design, Photography, and Illustration, Culinary Arts, and Welding Technology, and monitoring the Program Review process in Cosmetology, HVAC, and Welding Technology.

Craft Fair

The Joint Operating Committee approved the use of EASTERN's facilities for a December 8, 2024, Craft fair in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of Old York Road Holiday Breakfast. Proceeds from the Craft Fair will benefit EASTERN's student leadership organization, SkillsUSA.

SkillsUSA Fundraisers – 2024 - 2025

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following SkillsUSA fundraisers for the upcoming school year.

Internal:

Rita's Water Ice/Ice Cream – September
Chicken Sandwich and Tots – October
Pretzel – November
Hot Dog – December
Cinnamon Roll – January
Hamburger – February
Chicken Sandwich – March
Pretzel – April
Ice Cream and Car Detailing – May

External:

Spirit Sale – September through November
Blankets – October
Poinsettia/Wreaths – November
Food Truck - May

Practical Nursing Affiliation

The Joint Operating Committee approved a one-year agreement with Holy Redeemer Childcare. This partnership will offer Practical Nursing program students the opportunity and benefit of clinical experience effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Policy C108, Social Events and Program Trips – Second Reading

The Joint Operating Committee approved the second reading of Policy C108 – Social Events and Program Trips.

BOARD BRIEF

Renovations Phase IV and V of the Facilities Grant

Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski and Ms. Katie Braun provided the Joint Operating Committee with an update on the timeline for Phase IV and V renovations. The EASTERN Administration is currently awaiting confirmation from the State regarding the potential approval of a competitive facilities grant.

Personnel

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following personnel updates:

- Gerry Rooney as Safety and Security Coordinator as a part of his normal duties for the 2024-2025 school year
- Ferne Andre, Internal Student Success Coordinator, submitted her retirement, effective September 20, 2024 and adoption of a Resolution acknowledging her services and contributions to the school since June 2011.
- The Internal Student Success Coordinator position has been revised to Student Success Counselor.
- Alberto Soto, Facilities Maintenance Technician, submitted his resignation effective August 14, 2024.
- Kazia Smith was approved as a Practical Nursing Program Adjunct Instructor for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Physician of Record

The Joint Operating Committee approved the renewal of EASTERN's contract with Abington Memorial Hospital for serving as a Physician of Record to commence August 7, 2024 through June 20, 2025.

Appointment of Solicitor

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of Wisler Pearlstine, LLP as Solicitor for the term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

Designer Bag Bingo

EASTERN is excited to announce its annual Designer Bag Bingo to be held at Upper Moreland High School on October 7, 2024, from 6- 8 p.m. Doors for the event will open at 5 p.m. All proceeds will benefit EASTERN student awards and EASTERN's leadership organization, SkillsUSA. Tickets are available online for \$30 and \$35 at the door. Seating is limited. <https://eastern-designer-bag-bingo.cheddarup.com/>.

Alcohol is not permitted at this event or on school grounds.

All in-person ticket sales must be made in cash. No credit cards or checks will be accepted.