

November 2024

A report from the November 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.

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Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

*December 11, 2024

January 8, 2025

February 12, 2025

*March 12, 2025

April 9, 2025

*May 14, 2025

June 18, 2025

**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

Nicholas Choitz, a Cheltenham High School senior, is the November 2024 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Nicholas is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Protective Services 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.

Early in high school, Nicholas began exploring potential career paths and decided to learn more about the police force. He contacted his local police department and was invited to visit the station for a firsthand look. The experience was eye-opening and inspired him to enroll in EASTERN's Protective Services program for his junior and senior years.

At EASTERN, Nicholas serves as a leader in his Protective Services class, having been elected class Lieutenant. He actively fosters positive relationships with his classmates and steps in to mediate when conflicts arise. What he values most about the program is its family-like atmosphere and the mutual understanding among his peers, as they are all career-focused and passionate about being part of the program. He currently serves as the PM President for EASTERN's student leadership organization, SkillsUSA. Outside of school, Nicholas enjoys volunteering at places such as a local soup kitchen. He is also a Lead Counselor at Future Stars Day Camp where he works with campers ages 6 – 13 in various classroom and outdoor activities.

Through his program, he receives several industry-standard certifications that will help him stand out in the workforce, such as Hazardous Materials Awareness, CPR, First Aid, AED, Active Shooter Awareness, ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 240, 241, Firefighter 1 Completer Certification through Bucks County Public Safety, and EMT completed through Second Alarmers. As a junior in the Protective Services program, Nicholas received the Protective Services Achievement Award-Police and the Straight A Awards at EASTERN's Awards Night.

“Nicholas exudes a positive attitude and a warm, welcoming presence that sets him apart,” said Michael Raggi, EASTERN's Protective Services Instructor. “These qualities will not only foster strong connections with others but will also serve as invaluable assets throughout his career.”

Through his experiences in Protective Services, he has decided to become an EMT right out of high school and is considering his options to join the Second Alarmers and Police Academy.

Donations

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following donation:

- Welding Technology uniform donated by Vaughn Henry
- 80 packs of hair for braiding and weaving donated by Nina Simone Vaughn.

Kiwanis Holiday Breakfast – December 8, 2024

The Kiwanis Club of Old York Road will host their annual holiday breakfast at EASTERN on Sunday, December 8 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.

EASTERN’s Craft Fair

EASTERN’s Educator’s Association is partnering with SkillsUSA to host a Holiday Craft Fair on Sunday, December 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have craft vendors, raffle baskets, fun kid’s activities, a Wags Meet and Greet, and a Forgotten Cats Adoption Event. All proceeds will benefit EASTERN’s SkillsUSA student leadership activities.

2025 – 2026 Budget Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN’s 2025 – 2026 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.

- Skylar Childs from Robotics and Automated Technology/ Upper Moreland High School
- Neva Fullmer from Welding Technology/ Hatboro-Horsham High School.
- Jake Salters from Networking and Cybersecurity/Hatboro-Horsham High School

2025 – 2026 Program Offerings

The Joint Operating Committee approved the 2025 – 2026 Program Offerings. They can be found on EASTERN’s website - <https://www.eastech.org/counselors>.

Personnel

Administrative Assistant to the Practical Nursing Program Coordinator - Retirement

The Joint Operating Committee approved the retirement of Mary McDonnell, Administrative Assistant to the Practical Nursing Program Coordinator, effective January 3, 2025. Mary McDonnell has served EASTERN in various capacities over 31 years, and in Practical Nursing for the past 26 years.

New Adjunct Instructor Appointed for Practical Nursing Program

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of Nancy Toussaint as a new Adjunct Faculty Member for the Practical Nursing Program.

Occupational Advisory Committee – New Members Appointed

Allied Health

- Trinity Simpson - Nursing Student, Gwynedd Mercy University
- Windy Viernes - Evening/Weekend Practical Nursing Coordinator, EASTERN Center for Arts and Technology

Automotive Technology

- Giuseppe Pugliese - Mainline technician, J.L. Freed Honda Collision
- Jessica McCauley- Paint Prep, Bucks County Collision

Culinary Arts

- Irvin R. Boyd - Owner, Bredenbeck’s Bakery

Exercise Science and Rehabilitation

- Sean Castineira - Teacher, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Cooperative Education/Internships

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

- **Asher Dahlgren (Springfield Township/Business and Technology Professional)** to work at Overclocked IT, LLC under the supervision of **Daniel Weigner**.

Public Schools Facilities Improvement Grant

The Joint Operating Committee was pleased to accept the award of the Public School Facilities Improvement Grant for the Phase 4 HVAC Capital project. They also approved Breslin Architects to bid out the Phase 4 HVAC Equipment replacement project.