

## February 2025

*A report from the February 2025 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

- January Student of the Month
- February Student of the Month
- Open House
- Donations
- Summer Cosmetology
- SkillsUSA State Officer Training
- Capital Plan Phases 4&5
- Certification of 2025 – 2026 Budget
- Competitive Equipment Grant
- Classified Staff
- Practical Nursing
- Internship Supervisors Approved
- Black History Month

### Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

\*March 12, 2025

April 9, 2025

\*May 14, 2025

June 18, 2025

\*\*Seminar Room 8 PM

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### January Student of the Month

Kenneth Lawyer, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the January 2025 Student of the Month at EASTERN. Kenneth 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.

At EASTERN, Kenneth is recognized as a leader within his program. He has actively contributed to a range of school and after-school initiatives including key events such as the Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser, Open House, and the Tenth Grade Career Expo. He has received industry-standard certifications, such as Incident Command System, National Incident Management System, Incident Safety, Active Shooter Training, CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed Training, First Aid, and Fire Fighter 1.

Before joining EASTERN, Kenneth was a Boy Scout, Eagle Scout, an active volunteer for the Roslyn Fire Company, and a member of St. Luke's Faith in Action Youth Club. Through Boy Scout Troop 304, based at St. Luke the Evangelist in Glenside, Kenneth has made notable contributions to the troop's Council. He actively volunteers at their National Youth Leadership Training program tailored for 13- to 17-year-olds. Through the Boy Scouts, Kenneth was selected to participate in the St. George Trek, a challenging 90-mile hike in New Mexico, which he completed last summer.

After graduating from EASTERN and Abington Senior High School, Kenneth plans to pursue a degree in Fire Science at Bucks County Community College.

### February Student of the Month

Andrew Rodriguez, a Hatboro-Horsham High School senior, is the February 2025 Student of the Month at EASTERN. Andrew is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Culinary Arts program.

Andrew has been immersed in the restaurant industry from an early age, with his father owning Hatfield Pizzeria on Main Street in Hatfield, where the entire family plays a role in the business. "When I learned about the Culinary Arts program at EASTERN and realized I could pursue my passion during school hours, I knew I had to enroll," Andrew shared.

Andrew finds deep inspiration and motivation in collaborating with his family, crediting these experiences with keeping him grounded and instilling in him a strong sense of purpose. Watching his parents' unwavering dedication and work ethic drives him to strive for excellence and embody the same commitment in his own life and career.

"Andrew draws on his real-world work experience to inspire and motivate his classmates," said Chef Ben Vozzo, EASTERN's Culinary Arts Instructor. "He consistently maintains a positive attitude and goes out of his way to support others."

After graduating from EASTERN and Hatboro-Horsham High School, Andrew plans to either take a gap year to save money or pursue his culinary education at Montgomery County Community College, Penn College of Technology, or Johnson & Wales University.

## February 2025

### Mark Your Calendar for EASTERN's Open House

Open House at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove is Sunday, **March 2, 2025**, from 1 – 3:00 p.m.

### Donations

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following donations:

- 3D printer donated by the USDA, ARS, NEA, ERRS for the Welding Technology program
- Color nail polish, shampoo, conditioner, styling products, and two replacement bulbs for the nail light was donated by CosmoProf for use in the Cosmetology Program
- A cash donation of \$3,616.15 was donated from EASTERN's Educators Association from proceeds earned from the Craft Show

### Summer Cosmetology

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's hosting of the Summer Cosmetology program, which allows our students to earn an extra 150 hours per summer to help them achieve the required 1,250 hours required for their state Cosmetology license.

### SkillsUSA State Officer Training

The Joint Operating Committee approved travel for two trainings to support existing State Officer, a candidate for state office, and a delegate. The following students are involved:

- Current State Officer: Lillian Craney, Veterinary Science/Springfield
- Candidate for State Office: Logan White, Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Springfield
- State Office Delegate: Adrayanna Douglas, Robotics and Automated Technology/Jenkintown

### Capital Plan Phases 4 and 5 Bid Acceptance

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the bid tabulation for the Phase 4 and Phase 5 Capital Plan. Phase 4 is the HVAC replacement, and Phase 5 is the Culinary Arts renovation.

### Certification of 2025 – 2026 Budget

The Joint Operating Committee certified the operating budget as adopted and authorized implementation and submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### Competitive Equipment Grant

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the Competitive Equipment Grant for \$85,000 which includes equipment for the Automotive Technology, Electrical Technology, and Welding Technology programs.

## BOARD BRIEF

### Classified Staff

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Classified Staff:

- Kristin Waldner as Administrative Assistant to PN Program Coordinator effective January 13, 2025.
- Michael Tramontina as Construction Cluster Occupational Aide effective February 18, 2025.
- Facilities Maintenance Technician Kyle Maurer to work up to 4 hours to assist with Open House.

### Practical Nursing

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following individuals as Adjunct Instructors for the Practical Nursing Program:

- Karen Foster, BSN, RN
- Sofiya Ponyzhay, MSN, RN
- Leonard Tarnopolsky, BSN, RN

### Internship Supervisors Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Internship Supervisors:

- Laura Lasher of State Rep Nancy Guenst District Office to supervise Essam Farroukh from Business and Technology/Jenkintown
- Blane Marks of Wissahickon Physical Therapy to supervise Annalyse Jones from Exercise Science and Rehabilitation /Upper Moreland
- Brian Zeldes of BKZ Contractors to supervise Eoin Anto from Construction Technology / Springfield
- Mark Ragen of Faulkner Infinity of Willow Grove to supervise Gregory Gonzalez from Automotive Technology/Upper Dublin
- Kelly Conard of Elkins Park PT to supervise Tyler Manwarren from Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Abington
- Wade Cole of 3D Bodyworks Inc. to supervise Randy Franklin from Collision Repair Technology/ Springfield
- Jim O'Driscoll of Liberty Integrated Solutions to supervise Braden Campbell from Electrical Technology/Lower Moreland
- Jon T. Haines of H&K Group Inc. to supervise Ryan McCarthy from Collision Repair/Hatboro Horsham

### Black History Month

The following outstanding students will be spotlighted throughout the month for Black History Month:

- Jayla Martin – Cosmetology I/Cheltenham
- Naima Tijani, Culinary Arts/Abington
- Christine Singleton – Culinary Arts/Cheltenham
- Mirya Smith – Allied Health/Upper Moreland
- Adrayanna Douglas – Robotics/Jenkintown
- Amira Banks – Exercise Science/Cheltenham
- Khafra Anyika – Welding Technology/Cheltenham
- Chaze Shakoor – Veterinary Science/Jenkintown