BOARD BRIEF

March 2025

A report from the March 2025 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

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Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

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

March Student of the Month

Skyler Childs, an Upper Moreland High School senior, is the March 2025 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Skyler is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Robotics and Automated Technology 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.

Skyler thrives academically at both Upper Moreland and EASTERN. In tenth grade, he explored the Culinary Arts and Robotics and Automated Technology programs, uncertain of his exact career path but eager to combine academics with practical, real-world experiences. "EASTERN is the best decision I ever made," Skyler shared. "I love what I do in the Robotics and Automated Technology program. Every day, I feel like I'm working in the field."

This year at EASTERN, Skyler was selected as one of three students nominated for the prestigious CTE Presidential Scholar Award. He is a member of EASTERN's National Technical Honor Society and serves as the Robotics and Automated Technology class representative for SkillsUSA, EASTERN's student leadership organization. Skyler has earned several industry-standard certifications in his field, including OSHA and Universal Robots Certification.

As a junior, he received two awards at EASTERN's May Awards Night: the Straight A Award and the Demco Automation Innovation Award. He also serves as the student representative on the Robotics and Automated Technology program's Occupational Advisory Committee, which provides input to the school on industry-relevant updates. At Upper Moreland High School, Skyler has participated in several musicals and is a member of the Drama Club and Rock-Climbing Club. He holds a part-time job at Acme and volunteers regularly at the Glencairn Museum assisting with events.

"Skyler is exceptionally intelligent and personable—two qualities that will undoubtedly help him achieve his goals," said Mr. Kyle Jacoby, EASTERN's Robotics and Automated Technology Instructor. "He is hardworking and creative. Currently, he is designing a donation robot for the Glencairn Museum as part of a SkillsUSA competition. I am incredibly proud of all he has accomplished."

After graduating from EASTERN and Upper Moreland High School, Skyler plans to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology to continue his engineering education. He hopes to then secure a rewarding job in the field.

School Calendar

The Joint Operating Committee approved the calendar for students, teachers, and staff for the 2025-2026 school year. The final calendar will be posted shortly on www.eastech.org.

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Occupational Advisory Committee Members Appointed

The JOC approved the following new Occupational Advisory Committee members:

Welding Technology

- Matthew Donnelly (Welder) - City Sign
- Josh Kosak (Welding Instructor) - Upper Bucks County Technical School
- Steve Catherman (Director of Fabrication/Training) - Rhoads Industries Inc

Training Supervisors Approved for Internship Placements

The JOC approved the following Training Supervisors for EASTERN's students:

- Tyler Blaetz from Blaetz LLC -supervisor for Cole O'Brien from Electrical Technology/Abington
- Robert Dyke of Willow Computer Services, Inc. to supervise Jake Salters Networking and Cybersecurity / Hatboro-Horsham on an internship.

Personnel Affairs

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Personnel requests:

- Human Resources Coordinator – Summer Coverage
  Linda McAlpine, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, will work up to 25 hours for extra support in Human Resources, as needed throughout the summer.

- Summer Schedule for 12-Month Full-Time Staff
  The JOC approved a four-day workweek for summer staff at EASTERN.

- Interim Culinary Arts Occupational Aide
  Cheryl Steaker has been approved as the Interim Culinary Arts Occupational Aide, effective April 7, 2025, until May 30, 2025.

EASTERN Foundation Chicken BBQ Dinner

Let EASTERN's Culinary Arts program cook dinner for you on April 15, 2025! These To-Go meals include Pulled BBQ Chicken on a potato roll, Classic Cole Slaw, and Macaroni Salad. Only $15 per dinner, plus a small online convenience fee. Limited supply. Place your order here - https://my.cheddarup.com/c/bbq-chicken-dinner-27802/items?cart

Donations

The JOC approved the following donations:

• 30 pieces of car parts, hoods, fenders, bumpers, and doors to be used for our Collision Repair Technology program.

• OPI Hand Cream (1), Shampoo Catwalk by TIGI (5), Conditioner Catwalk by TIGI (13), Magnetic Gel Liner (7), Kenra Restorative Reconstruction 1.0oz (4), Kenra Styling Crème (2), OPI Bose (2), Urban Alchemy Cleanse (4), and Clipper Guides #8 (2) donated by CosmoProf- Willow Grove, to be used in the Cosmetology program.

SkillsUSA State Competition

The Joint Operating Committee approved 42 students and 6 chaperones to attend the State Competition in Hershey from April 2 – 4, 2025. The student listed below received the gold medal at the SkillsUSA District Competition and will be moving on to the State Competition. Best of luck to our competitors! You can see the list of all competitors here - https://www.eastech.org/post-details/~board/news-releases/post/good-luck-to-all-of-our-skillsusa-state-competitors

Policy

Memorandum of Understanding – Upper Moreland Police Department 2025 – 2027

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the renewal of the two-year Memorandum of Understanding between the Upper Moreland Police Department and EASTERN to establish procedures to be followed when an incident involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon on school property.

EASTERN Celebrates Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and at EASTERN, we are thrilled to honor the outstanding female students making a difference in our programs! Each week, we're spotlighting exceptional young women who have been nominated by their instructors for their dedication, talent, and hard work.

Join us in celebrating this week's honorees:

- Aneesa Anderson – Culinary Arts / Cheltenham High School
- Diana Codio – Networking and Cybersecurity / Cheltenham High School
- Lisa Truong – Culinary Arts / Abington Senior High School

Their achievements and stories are truly inspiring! Read more about them at www.eastech.org and help us cheer them on! #WomensHistoryMonth #EASTERNProud