

May 2025

A report from the May 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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- Summer Electrical Work
- Summer Interns
- Co-op Training Supervisors Approved
- PA Smart Advancing Computer Science & STEM Education Grant
- Summer Cosmetology Instructors Approved

Coming Events

Joint Operating Committee Meeting

June 18, 2025

Awards Night

May 21, 2025, at 7 p.m., at Upper Moreland High School

**Seminar Room 8 PM

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May Student of the Month

Nia Bonaparte, a Cheltenham High School senior, is the May 2025 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Nia is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Allied Health 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.

Nia has always been deeply passionate about science, constantly seeking opportunities to expand her knowledge and explore new challenges. Recognizing her enthusiasm and potential, one of her AP Science teachers at Cheltenham High School encouraged her to look into the Allied Health program at EASTERN. Intrigued by the possibilities, Nia eagerly attended EASTERN's presentation at her school. Determined to make an informed decision about her future, she took the next step by participating in a follow-up visit, solidifying her confidence that Allied Health was the perfect fit for her aspirations.

At Cheltenham High School, Nia is a member of the softball team, actively participates in the Reading Olympics, and is involved in both the National Honor Society and the Black Scholars program. At EASTERN, she was part of a four-person team that competed in the "Bone Voyage" Anatomage Tournament at the Pennsylvania College of Technology on March 6, 2025. Nia also competes in SkillsUSA, EASTERN's student leadership organization. Her team earned first place in the Health Knowledge Bowl at the District Competition in February, advancing to the State competition in April. On April 30, 2025, Nia was inducted into EASTERN's National Technical Honor Society in recognition of her achievements.

Outside of school, Nia has been actively involved in running her family-operated nonprofit organization, Kingdom Keepers Outreach Ministry (KKOM). Founded in 2017, KKOM is dedicated to serving the Philadelphia community through acts of kindness and support for those in need. Twice a month, Nia, her parents, and a team of dedicated volunteers visit the Ben Franklin Parkway to distribute food and hygiene items to individuals facing hardship.

Through her program at EASTERN, Nia has earned both CPR and OSHA-10 certifications, equipping her with essential lifesaving and workplace safety skills. Her dedication to helping others extends beyond the classroom, as she was honored with a Community Service Student Spotlight in December for her outstanding work with KKOM.

After graduating from EASTERN and Cheltenham High School, Nia plans to attend college to study Neuroscience and research. She has already been accepted to several schools but is eagerly awaiting decisions from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pennsylvania as she considers the next step in her academic journey.

May 2025

BOARD BRIEF

New Automotive Technology Instructor Appointed

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of William Soleau as EASTERN's Automotive Technology Instructor for 2025 - 2026. Mr. Soleau joins EASTERN from Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center, where he also taught Automotive Technology. He is a resident of our school community.

We extend our heartfelt best wishes to Mr. George Stahl on his upcoming retirement. Mr. Stahl has been a valued member of EASTERN since August 2006, beginning as an Automotive Technology Instructional Aide and later being appointed Instructor in 2015.

Joint Operating Committee Member Steps Down

EASTERN extends its sincere gratitude to Mrs. LouCrecie Garlanger as she steps down from the Joint Operating Committee and the Upper Moreland School District Board. Mrs. Garlanger has been a dedicated advocate for EASTERN's programs and a generous EASTERN Award donor. We deeply appreciate her years of service and steadfast support of our mission.

2025 – 2026 Preliminary Salary Guide for Teachers

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

Conferences for 2025 – 2026 School Year

The list of conferences for the 2025 – 2026 School Year was approved.

Donations

The JOC approved the following donations: Murad Peel (2), Express T-up Kit (2), Paraffin Protectors (6), Clean and Easy Wax (2), Hamps Pumpkin Spice Moisturizer (5), Random Color from Prasona (8), Random Color by Paul Mitchell (13), OPI String Coat (1), Gem Lites Colorditioner (3), and Lash Adhesive (6) donated by CosmoProf to be used for our Cosmetology program.

Practical Nursing Program Affiliations

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following 2025 – 2026 Practical Nursing Affiliations:

- The contract between EASTERN and Holy Redeemer Lafayette
- The contract between EASTERN and Saint Joseph Manor
- The contract between EASTERN and Holy Redeemer Child Care Center, Meadowbrook

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.

Summer Interns

The Joint Operating Committee approved the employment of five Electrical Interns and one Technology Intern.

Summer Electrical Interns:

- Lelia Johnson, Cheltenham SD / Robotics and Automated Technology
- Molly Smith, Upper Dublin SD / Electrical Technology
- Jack Bender, Springfield Township SD / Electrical Technology
- Anthony Negron, Hatboro-Horsham SD / Electrical Technology
- Juliana Stigliano, Upper Moreland SD / Welding Technology

Summer Technology Intern:

- Ethan Hromisin, Cheltenham SD / Networking and Cybersecurity

Co-op Training Supervisors Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Training Supervisors for six more students going on paid internships:

The administration requests approval of the following Training Supervisors for EASTERN's students:

- Stan Solski, Climatic Testing Systems approved as supervisor for Ethan Duberville, Robotics/ Upper Dublin
- Benjamin Burger, Philadelphia Cricket Club, approved as supervisor for Aneesa Anderson, Culinary Arts/ Cheltenham, and Evan Sandy, Culinary Arts/ Abington
- Emmanuela Lorisme, Seedling & Sage Catering, approved as supervisor for Lisa Truong, Culinary Arts/ Abington
- Howard Gaul, Collision Concepts, approved as supervisor for Matt Lesniak, Welding/ Upper Dublin
- Christian Roberts, O'Donnell Metal Fabricators, approved as supervisor for Colin Pennington, HVAC/ Springfield

PA Smart Advancing Computer Science & STEM Education – CTE Innovation Grant

The Joint Operating Committee has approved and accepted a \$450,000 CTE Innovation Grant to support the development and implementation of a Building Trades program, set to launch in the 2026–2027 school year.

Summer Cosmetology Instructors

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of the following Summer Cosmetology instructors at the current contracted hourly rate: Sandra Hummel, Leah Davis, Haley Tucker, Nikki Parke, and Mark Folkman.