

August 2025

A report from the August 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

- Vet Alumna Takes Part in Internship Program Through University of Delaware
- 2025 – 2026 Enrollment
- Summer Cosmetology
- SkillsUSA Fundraisers
- Key Indicators Approved
- Facilities Updates
- Personnel
- Lease Agreement for Practical Nursing
- Designer Bag Bingo
- Craft Fair

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting
*Seminar Room 8 PM

September 10, 2025
October 8, 2025
November 12, 2025
December 10, 2025
January 14, 2026,
February 11, 2026
March 11, 2026
April 8, 2026
May 13, 2026
June 17, 2026

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www.eastech.org*

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Foundation online at:
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EASTERN Veterinary Alumna, Kayla Akins, Takes Part in Envision Internship Program Through University of Delaware

Kayla Akins, a 2024 graduate of Springfield Township High School and the Veterinary Science program at the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN), is currently participating in the prestigious Envision Program, a summer internship held at Allen Laboratories through the University of Delaware. Kayla is thoroughly enjoying this valuable hands-on experience under the leadership of Dr. Brian Ladman.

Throughout the summer, Kayla is testing 10 different isolates of the Newcastle disease virus found in chickens. She began her experiment using specific-pathogen-free eggs to prevent unwanted pathogens from interfering with her results. Once the eggs were confirmed viable, she was able to begin. Before inoculating the eggs with the virus, she carefully punched a hole into the air cell at the top of each egg. She then injected a mixture of antibiotics and the virus into the eggs and monitored them for mortality. She continued to observe the eggs over the next 4–5 days. To ensure that all 10 different virus isolates were examined, Kayla repeated this process for each isolate. She extracted fluid from the eggs to screen for other viruses using PCR (polymerase chain reaction), and the final step in the process is to use gel electrophoresis for sequencing.

During her time at EASTERN, Kayla was an outstanding student who excelled in both science and art. She began exploring drawing and painting as a way of lifting her spirits and as an outlet for her creativity during the pandemic. In 2022, she submitted one of her paintings to PBS 39 and was chosen as Artist of the Month.

EASTERN gave Kayla a strong head start on her career path, and she remains in touch with her Veterinary Science Instructor, Karen McGeehan. “I am so proud of Kayla for earning this internship,” said McGeehan. “She is a dynamic individual with outstanding drive and a remarkable work ethic.”

Kayla is majoring in Pre-Veterinary studies at the University of Delaware, and after graduation, she hopes to study diseases and their effects on animals.

2025 – 2026 Enrollment

EASTERN enrollment for the 2025 – 2026 enrollment as of August 1, 2025, is 691, with 84 students on a waitlist. We are at 93 percent capacity.

August 2025

Summer Cosmetology

The Summer Cosmetology program was held from June 17 - July 22, 2025, and there were a total of 52 juniors and seniors. This year 15 seniors completed their 1,250 cosmetology hours required for licensure in PA. 13 of those students are now licensed cosmetologists.

SkillsUSA Fundraisers – 2025 - 2026

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

Ice Cream – September

Spirit Wear/Blankets/Designer Bag Bingo – October

Hot Dog – November

Pretzel – December

Krispy Kreme – February

Hamburger – March

Pretzel – April

Food Truck and Car Detailing – May

Key Indicators Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved the 2024 – 2025 Key Indicators for use in EASTERN publications and communications.

Key Indicator	Goal	24-25
Enrollment	80%	92%
Attendance	94%	93%
Regular Attendance	85%	80%
EASTERN Retention	85%	84%
Program Retention	*	83%
Completion	73%	94%
Placement	84%	89%
Placement Response %	*	93%
NOCTI - COMPETENT	91%	91%
NOCTI - ADVANCED	72%	64%
Industry Certifications	75%	99%

BOARD BRIEF

Facilities Update

The Joint Operating Committee approved a few change orders for the Culinary Arts renovation. The renovations are scheduled to be completed in early September.

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 2025-2026 school year
- Nico Clinefelter has been approved as the Arts, AV and Business Occupational Aide Long Term Substitute from August 27 through December 12, 2025. Nico will be filling in for Trisha Simmler-Totaro.
- Kesiha Prosser as Culinary Arts Occupational Aide Long Term Substitute from August 27 through December 19, 2025. Keisha will be filling in for Nicole Suanlarm.

New Program Proposed for 2026 – 2027

Mr. Joe Greb, EASTERN's Assistant Director, proposed a new program, Building Trades, for PDE approval and inclusion in the district's course offerings. The Joint Operating Committee is scheduled to vote in September.

Lease Agreement for Practical Nursing

The Joint Operating Committee approved the ratification of Upper Moreland Township School District's lease agreement for the Practical Nursing program. Implementation will take place over next year as EASTERN continues its collaboration with the district.

Designer Bag Bingo

EASTERN is excited to announce its annual Designer Bag Bingo to be held at Upper Moreland High School on October 22, 2025, 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://tinyurl.com/muryvp3m>.

Craft Fair

The Joint Operating Committee approved the use of EASTERN's facilities for a December 7, 2025, 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.