

September 2025

A report from the September 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

- September Student of the Month
- Cosmetology Curriculum Hours
- New Program for 2026 – 2027
- Donations
- Veterinary Science Student Interns and Adult Supervisors Appointed
- Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor Appointed
- Auto/Collision Occupational Aide Resigns
- Substitute Instructor Approved
- Policies
- Boiler Replacement Project
- Designer Bag Bingo

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting
Online via Zoom
*Seminar Room 8 PM

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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September Student of the Month

Anthony Ginaldi, an Upper Dublin High School senior, is the September 2025 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Anthony is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Automotive Technology program. The Student of the Month Award is sponsored by EASTERN's faculty, 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.

Growing up, Anthony developed a strong bond with his dad through their shared passion for working on cars—a passion that began with his love for Hot Wheels. In tenth grade, he learned about the career and technical programs at EASTERN during a presentation at Upper Dublin High School. Encouraged by some of his peers, he decided to visit the Automotive Technology program to explore it further.

Before attending EASTERN, Anthony completed two years of engineering courses at Upper Dublin High School, which helped prepare him for the Automotive Technology program. "In those engineering classes, I was able to develop my hands-on skills before coming here," said Anthony. "I learned to use various computer programs and even designed layouts for cabins and houses."

Through the Automotive Technology program at EASTERN, Anthony has gained hands-on experience performing oil changes, tire changes, wheel balancing, wheel alignments, brake service and safely lifting and jacking several types of vehicles. He has also completed full engine and brake teardowns and assemblies. Anthony has earned several industry-standard certifications, including Lift Institute Certification, S/P2 certifications in Electric Vehicle Safety, Automotive Service Safety, Automotive Service Pollution Prevention, and Valvoline Motor Oil 101.

During the 2024–2025 school year, he was selected to attend the SkillsUSA Leadership Conference in the Poconos and served as the student representative for the Automotive Technology Occupational Advisory Committee. Anthony was selected as the 2025 – 2026 SkillsUSA student representative for the AM Automotive Technology Class. At EASTERN's May 2025 Awards Night, he was honored with the Straight A Award. At Upper Dublin High School, Anthony plays Club Soccer and is also a member of the School Bowling Team.

After graduating from EASTERN and Upper Dublin High School, Anthony plans to attend a postsecondary trade school to study both welding and automotive technology, with the possibility of exploring aeronautics as well. "I want to diversify my skills and career options," said Anthony.

Cosmetology Curriculum Hours

The Joint Operating Committee approved Cosmetology instruction during the six in-service days on September 24, 2025, October 20, 2025, November 4, 2025, February 13, 2026, March 20, 2026, and May 19, 2026.

New Program for the 2026 – 2027 School Year – Construction Careers and Management

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN administration to open a Building/Property Maintenance program under CIP Code 46.0401 under the name of Construction Careers and Management. This program will teach the basics of the many aspects of the construction industry and project management.

In addition, the current Construction Technology program will change its name to Carpentry.

Donations

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the donation of two cases of cat food for our Veterinary Science program.

Personnel Affairs

Veterinary Science Student Interns and Adult Supervisors Appointed

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of the following Veterinary Science students as weekend interns to care for on-site animals.

- Hayden Zimmerman, Abington SD
- Amanda Henry, Abington SD
- Giselle Aguilar-Rodriguez, Hatboro-Horsham SD
- Charlotte Nash, Lower Moreland SD

Adult Supervisors for the weekend animal care include the following EASTERN staff members:

- Karen McGeehan, Veterinary Science Instructor
- Elena Hays, Instructional Aide
- Marketa Crane, Human Resource Coordinator
- Eileen Collins, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Director
- Trisha Simmler-Totaro, Instructional Aide for Design, Photography, and Illustration
- Kyle Maurer, Facilities Technician
- Shannon Rowley-Lavelle, Part-Time Administrative Assistant to the Main Office
- Kristin Waldner, Administrative Assistant to the Practical Nursing Coordinator
- Michele Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager

Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructors

The Joint Operating Committee approved Phoebe Barnes, BSN, RN, and Jennifer Porter, BSN, RN as Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructors for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

Automotive/Collision Occupational Aide - Resignation

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the resignation of Eric Martin, Automotive/Collision Occupational Aide, effective September 5, 2025.

2025- Substitute Instructor Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved Michelle Haines as Substitute for the School Nurse and Allied Health Instructor. Ms. Haines is Instructor/Coordinator of Part Time Practical Nursing Cohorts

Policies – First Reading

The Joint Operating Committee received the first reading of the following policies:

- C112: Admissions – Administration added a note regarding tuition to this policy
- G106: Tuition – (Administration asked to eliminate this policy)
- B102 Nondiscrimination in Classroom Practices
- B111: Special Education
- P100: Nondiscrimination in Employment
- C106: Controlled Substances

Facilities – Boiler Replacement Project

The Joint Operating Committee approved Tri-County Mechanical, Inc. for the boiler replacement project. The contract is subject to the contractor complying with all post-award requirements and solicitor review.

Designer Bag Bingo

EASTERN is holding its Designer Bag Bingo on October 22, 2025, at Upper Moreland High School in the cafeteria. Bingo will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. and doors will open at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$35.00 online in advance (10 games + dauber), or \$40.00 cash only at the door. Extra games can be purchased at the event ~ 1 set of 10 additional for \$25 or \$5 each. Snacks will be available for purchase (cash only), but please feel free to bring your own food. There will be a 50/50 and gift basket raffles.

All proceeds will benefit SkillsUSA and the EASTERN Foundation, which in turn benefit our EASTERN students. Reserve your seats here –

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/eastern-designer-bag-bingo-2025/items>.