BOARD BRIEF

October 2025

A report from the October 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

- October Student of the Month
- Career and Technical Student Organization
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 30 Enrollment
- Donations
- Second Reading of Policies
- Personnel

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting
Online via Zoom
*Seminar Room 8 PM

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

Get the Board Brief by email contact Amy Shields for more information at ashields@eastech.org 215.784.4806

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www.eastech.org

October Student of the Month

Amira Banks, a Cheltenham High School senior, is the October 2025 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Amira is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Exercise Science and Rehabilitation 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.

Amira has had a passion for sports since the age of six, participating in track, volleyball, and soccer. As a dedicated athlete competing in Varsity Track and Field for Cheltenham High School and participating in Club Track and Field, she has gained a deep understanding of the vital role physical therapy plays in helping athletes recover and reach peak. With aspirations of becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Amira attended EASTERN's Open House after learning about the Exercise Science and Rehabilitation program. She found the program to be a strong fit for her interests and a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on experience and strengthen her resume.

As a junior at EASTERN, Amira was selected by her instructor for a Black History Month Student Spotlight. She has also obtained industry-standard certifications such as CPR and OSHA-10. At Cheltenham High School, in addition to being an honor roll student and outstanding performance athlete, Amira volunteered at Cedarbrook Middle School during volleyball and track seasons to assist the middle school athletes in developing their skills. This experience helped her strengthen her communication and coaching abilities while sharing positive sports experiences with younger students.

At Cheltenham High School, she is part of the Black Scholars Program and is a member of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program, which helps students develop business skills and leadership qualities.

"Amira is a leader in the classroom and is always willing to support her classmates whenever needed," said Mrs. Shelley Helm, EASTERN's Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Instructor. "Her patience and strong communication skills are valuable assets, and I look forward to seeing all she will accomplish during her senior year."

After graduating from EASTERN and Cheltenham High School, Amira plans to attend the University of Delaware to pursue a six-year Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. She hopes to work with athletes in both clinical settings and sports environments, with a particular interest in helping younger athletes reach their full potential.

Career and Technical Student Organization

The Joint Operating Committee approved 45 students and 5 chaperones to attend the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference from November 12 – 14, 2025 at Kalahari Resorts in Pocono Manor, PA.

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National Hispanic Heritage Month

EASTERN recognized four students for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Anthony Negron, a senior in EASTERN's Electrical Technology/Hatboro-Horsham
Anthony's mother is from Colombia, and his father is from Puerto Rico. He has visited family in both places many times, although he's traveled to Puerto Rico more often. National Hispanic Heritage Month reminds Anthony of his vibrant culture—the music, and especially the food. After graduating from Hatboro-Horsham and EASTERN, Anthony plans to pursue either lineman school or an apprenticeship. "My goal is to work my way up to a career as an aerial lineman, working from a helicopter," he said.

Giselle Aguilar-Rodriguez, a senior in EASTERN's Veterinary Science/ Hatboro-Horsham
Giselle's parents are from neighboring towns in Guatemala—her father is from Flores Petén and her mother is from Concepción. Although Giselle hopes to visit Guatemala herself someday to meet her many aunts, uncles, and cousins, her family has been able to visit over the years. After graduating from Hatboro-Horsham and EASTERN, Giselle plans to major in biology or pre-veterinary studies, considering Penn State, the University of Delaware, or Delaware Valley University. Her ultimate dream is to open her own companion-animal practice.

Daniel Pina-Hernandez, a senior in EASTERN's Collision Repair Technology/Upper Moreland
Daniel's parents are originally from Puebla, Mexico, but met after moving to the United States. His grandparents still live in Mexico, and the family visits every few years. Daniel loves the country's beauty, tranquility, and, of course, the cuisine. "The food is phenomenal," he said. Right now, Daniel is weighing his options about his next steps. He is considering either joining the Marines or pursuing post-secondary education related to his field.

Dominic Hernandez, a senior in EASTERN's Protective Services/Hatboro-Horsham
Dominic's father's family is from San Juan, Puerto Rico, while his mother was born in West Virginia and grew up in Ohio. Dominic treasures the chance to spend time with relatives in Puerto Rico and at his grandfather's ranch in West Virginia. Dominic travels to Puerto Rico every few years to spend time with his relatives. He is considering attending college to study psychology while playing lacrosse and then joining the Army or enlisting in the Army after high school to build his experience and strengthen his résumé,

September 30 Enrollment

The official September 30th enrollment is 674 students with 69 students still on a wait list.

Program	Students
HVAC	18
Electrical Technology	17
Veterinary Science	11
Exercise Science and Rehabilitation	7
Protective Services	7
Cosmetology	4
Construction Technology	3
Welding Technology	2

Donations

The following donations were accepted by the Joint Operating Committee:

- Joni Seth donated 1 case of cat food and a printer for our Veterinary Science program
- Cosmo Prof donated Moroccan Oil, Color Rhapsody (32), Aqua Lashes, Bond FX Conditioner, Gem Lites Conditioner, OPI Polishes, Schwarkopf Vibrancy Boaters. Igora Vibrance (14), Lumishine Starter Kits, and Lumishine Permanent Color for our Cosmetology program.

Second Reading of Policies

The Joint Operating Committee approved the second reading of following policies:

- B102 Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
- B111: Special Education
- C106: Controlled Substances
- C112: Admission of Students
- P100: Nondiscrimination in Employment
- G106: Tuition – (eliminate this policy)

Personnel

2025 – 2026 Substitute Instructor:
Richard Worthington was approved for Protective Services.

Automotive/Collision Occupational Aide:
William Morales was approved as the Automotive/Collision Occupational Aide effective October 20, 2025.

Resignation of the Continuing Education Adjunct Instructor:
The resignation of Frank Britsch, Continuing Education Adjunct Instructor for Electrical, was approved and will be effective on December 11, 2025.