BOARD BRIEF

December 2025

A report from the December 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

- December Student of the Month
- Joint Operating Committee Reorganization
- Christ's Home Articulation Agreement
- Collision Repair Education Foundation
- Open House
- Personnel
- Internship Supervisors
- Community Service Spotlights

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

January 14, 2026
February 11, 2026
*March 11, 2026
April 8, 2026
*May 13, 2026
June 17, 2026
*Seminar Room 8 PM

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

December Student of the Month

Lelia Johnson, a Cheltenham High School senior, is the December 2025 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Lelia is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Robotics and Automated 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.

Lelia's older sister, whom she admires, attended EASTERN for Construction Technology, and now enjoys a successful career. Because of her sister's experience, Lelia has been aware of the many opportunities at EASTERN for years. Already an active member of Cheltenham High School's Robotics Club, she found the Robotics and Automated Technology program at EASTERN to be the perfect fit for her when she visited EASTERN in 10th grade.

As a junior, Lelia received the Straight A Award at EASTERN's Awards Night in May 2025. She also interviewed for and was selected as a paid intern for summer of 2025 with EASTERN's Facilities Department, where she assisted with various school maintenance projects. In her Robotics and Automated Technology program, Lelia enjoys helping first-year students and serves as a classroom leader. As an EASTERN Student Ambassador, she frequently represents her program at recruitment events.

At Cheltenham High School, Lelia is an active Student Council member on the Environmental Committee, Vice President of the Debate Club, Treasurer of the Black Scholars Program, and a member of the FIRST Robotics Club, among many other activities. Outside of school, she founded the STEM Queens group at the Elkins Park Library, where she leads workshops designed to inspire students to explore STEM fields.

"Lelia is an amazing student and role model in my class," said Mr. Kyle Jacoby, EASTERN's Robotics and Automated Technology Instructor. "She works hard, and her actions motivate other students. I am so proud that she received this honor."

After graduating from EASTERN and Cheltenham High School, she plans to attend the Aviation Institute of Maintenance program in Philadelphia — an 18-month course that will prepare her for her Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) license, a globally recognized certification for aircraft mechanics who maintain and repair both the structural parts of an aircraft and its engine systems. After earning her license, she plans to enter the workforce as an aircraft technician. She envisions her career taking her to Connecticut or Vermont and looks forward to traveling extensively in the future.

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Joint Operating Committee Reorganization
The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged the terms and members for each participating district:
Term: December 2025 – November 2028
- Hatboro-Horsham – Ms. Jennifer Wilson
- Lower Moreland – Mr. Erskine Payton
- Upper Dublin – Dr. Joseph Burdo

Term: December 2024 – November 2027
- Bryn Athyn – Mr. Edmund Rhodes
- Springfield – Mr. Jeffrey Bedard
- Upper Moreland – Mr. Grant Rounds

Term: December 2023 – November 2026
- Abington – Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart
- Cheltenham – Mr. Charles Burdell-Williams
- Jenkintown – Ms. Carolyn Riley

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged the following officer terms:
- **Treasurer – Marta Mecray**
  One-Year Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
- **Secretary – Ms. Katie Braun**
  Four-Year Term: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026
- **Superintendent of Record – Dr. Jeffrey Fecher**
  Two-Year Term: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

The Joint Operating Committee approved the election of the following officers and terms:
- **President – Carolyn Riley** –
  December 11, 2025-December 9, 2026
- **Vice President – Charles Burdell-Williams** –
  December 11, 2025 – December 9, 2026

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's website (www.eastech.org) as the official repository of all operating policies for the Joint Operating Committee and EASTERN Board of School Directors until changed by the Joint Operating Committee.

Christ's Home Articulation Agreement for the Allied Health Program was presented.

Collision Repair Education Foundation
The Joint Operating Committee accepted the Greater Philadelphia I-CAR Committee Award of up to $10,000 to purchase a dust extractor for Collision Repair.

Mark Your Calendar - EASTERN's Open House
Open House at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology in Willow Grove is **Sunday, March 1, 2026,** from 1 – 3:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents of high school students in Eastern Montgomery County to see how EASTERN can give students a competitive edge in college or in a specialized career program.

Personnel:
Professional Staff
The Joint Operating Committee approved Hayley Granacher, School-to-Career Coordinator, to intern Marcella McAdams for her field experience needed to gain her CO-OP certification.

Practical Nursing
The Joint Operating Committee approved Carlos Rojas, BSN, RN as an adjunct instructor for Practical Nursing.

Continuing Education
The Joint Operating Committee approved Mark Vitek as an adjunct instructor for Continuing Education.

Internship Supervisors Approved
The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Internship Supervisors:
- Bryan DePue of Willow Grove Auto Tops to supervise Ashlin Smith-Brodsky, Collision Repair/Springfield.
- Brian Pontarelli of Pontarellis' Automotive Marien to supervise Gino Pellicciotti from Collision Repair/Hatboro-Horsham
- Kyle Morano of Morano Brothers to supervise William Jones, Collision Repair/Springfield.

Community Service Spotlights
Throughout December, EASTERN is recognizing students who have dedicated their time and energy to our local community. Students recognized include:
- Matthew Schmidt/Welding Technology/Abington
- Emma Fricker/Design, Photography and Illustration/Upper Dublin
- David Phillips/Protective Services/Abington