# EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD BRIEF

## February 2026

*A report from the February 2026 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***

- February Student of the Month
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- Certification of 2026 – 2027 Budget
- Black History Month
- Substitute Teachers
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- Internship Supervisors
- SkillsUSA District Competition Medalists

***Coming Events***

Joint Committee Meeting

*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*

*Visit our website!*

www.eastech.org

### February Student of the Month

David Phillips, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the February 2026 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. David is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Protective Services 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.

David has been a junior member of the Roslyn Fire Company for the past four years. After visiting EASTERN with his high school and attending an Open House during his tenth-grade year, David chose to enroll in the Protective Services program to broaden his knowledge across multiple public safety fields, including firefighting, law enforcement, and emergency medical services. On December 4, David proudly earned his Firefighter 1 certification through Bucks County Community College. Through the Protective Services program, he has also earned industry-standard certifications, including CPR/AED, First Aid, several Incident Command System (ICS) certifications, and more.

Serving his community and being a role model that younger children can look up to are important to David. As a member of the Roslyn Fire Company, he enjoys participating in community activities such as bringing a fire truck to birthday parties and escorting Santa through neighborhood streets. As a junior volunteer firefighter, David also assisted during the SPS Technologies fire last February and took photographs at the scene. While the incident was devastating for the community, it proved to be a valuable learning experience, allowing David to observe the chain of command in action during an active emergency response.

At EASTERN, David currently serves as the Sergeant for the Protective Services class and regularly volunteers his time at school and community events, including the Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser held last October. At EASTERN's Awards Night in May 2025, he was recognized with the Protective Service Achievement Award – Security. At Abington Senior High School, David is an active member of the First Responders Club.

After graduating from EASTERN and Abington Senior High School, he plans to continue serving his community by working part-time with the Upper Moreland Fire Department while completing the additional certifications required to pursue a career in firefighting, including Firefighter 2, Vehicle Rescue Technician, and Emergency Vehicle Operator.

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| **Mark Your Calendar for EASTERN's Open House**<br>Open House at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove is Sunday, **March 1, 2026,** from 1 – 3:00 p.m.<br><br>**Donations**<br>The Joint Operating Committee approved the following donations:<br>▪ Dry shampoo, conditioners, volumizer, nail art supplies, wax supplies, and (2) sets of Wahl clippers from Cosmo Prof-Willow Grove for Cosmetology.<br><br>**Summer Cosmetology**<br>The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's hosting of the Summer Cosmetology program, which allows our students to earn an extra 150 hours per summer to help them achieve the required 1,250 hours required for their state Cosmetology license.<br><br>The program will run from June 22 through July 23, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This will offer 6 hours per day for twenty days<br><br>**Certification of 2026 – 2027 Budget**<br>The Joint Operating Committee certified the operating budget as adopted and authorized implementation and submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.<br><br>**Black History Month**<br>The following outstanding students will be spotlighted throughout the month for Black History Month:<br>▪ Tyler Little – Veterinary Science/Abington<br>▪ Makaila Dupree – Business and Technology Professional/Cheltenham<br>▪ Giovanni Francis – Automotive Technology/Cheltenham<br>▪ Infinity Miller-Broadwater – Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Abington<br>▪ Kayla Ervin – Business and Technology Professional/Cheltenham<br>▪ Ehizele Arebamen – Allied Health/Cheltenham<br>▪ Morgan Monte – Design, Photography, and Illustration/Upper Dublin<br>▪ Cayla Brooks – Culinary Arts/Springfield<br>▪ Dena Humphries – Protective Services/Upper Moreland<br>▪ Marckus Jones – HVAC/Abington | **Substitute Instructors**<br>The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Substitute Instructors for the remainder of the 2025 – 2026 school year:<br>▪ AnnaMaria Stylianou for Veterinary Science<br>▪ Jonathan Sklut for Business and Technology Professional and Networking and Cybersecurity<br><br>**Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructors**<br>The Joint Operating Committee approved the following individuals as Adjunct Instructors for the Practical Nursing Program for the remainder of the 2025 – 2026 school year:<br>▪ Kaitlyn Conolly, BSN, RN<br>▪ Julie Njoku-Anderson, MSN-ED, RN, CRRN<br><br>**Practical Nursing Affiliation Agreement**<br>The Joint Operating Committee approved an agreement between EASTERN and the Philadelphia School District for Practical Nursing students to benefit from clinical experience in gerontology.<br><br>**Internship Supervisors Approved**<br>The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Internship Supervisor:<br><br>Dan Checchia from Land Rover of Willow Grove to supervise Leo Kuntzmann from Automotive Technology/Abington High School<br><br>**SkillsUSA District Competition Medalists**<br>Sixty-six students from the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) participated in skill areas or leadership at the SkillsUSA District 2 Competitions held January 23 (Cooking and baking competitions) at Walnut Hill College, and January 28, 2026 (all other competitions) at Bucks County Technical High School.<br>▪ 19 first place winners<br>▪ 5 second place winners<br>▪ 25 third place winners<br>▪ 5 Direct to States<br><br>The Gold Medal winners will compete at April's State championship in Hershey, PA<br><br>A full list of medalists can be found on www.eastech.org.<br><br>Congratulations to all! |