EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD BRIEF

March 2026

A report from the March 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.

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Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

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

March Student of the Month

Molly Smith, an Upper Dublin High School senior, is the March 2026 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Molly is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Electrical 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.

Molly always knew a traditional desk job wasn't for her. She wanted a career that kept her on her feet—learning by doing in a hands-on, real-world environment. After hearing about EASTERN from her school counselor, Molly attended a Career Expo field trip, where she explored three different programs. When she visited Electrical Technology, something clicked. The fast-paced, practical nature of the program immediately caught her attention—and she knew she had found something worth pursuing.

After just one year in the program, Molly interviewed for—and earned—a paid internship at EASTERN last summer. She worked alongside her Electrical Technology instructor, Gary Felmey, and EASTERN's Facilities Manager, Fred Fox, gaining real-world experience by helping to upgrade and maintain the school's buildings and grounds.

She was selected to participate in Rosie's Girls, a registered pre-apprenticeship program for Electrical and Building Trades careers. Beginning in April, she will attend a 63-hour program over the course of several weeks. Rosie's Girls is supported by Apprentice Training for the Electrical Industry (ATEI) in partnership with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 98 and serves young women in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. She was also the only female selected from Montgomery County for the program.

At EASTERN, Molly is the PM Schoolwide Vice President for SkillsUSA, EASTERN's Student Leadership Organization. She also represents her program as a student ambassador for many EASTERN recruitment events, and fundraisers. At EASTERN's Award Night in May 2025, Molly was recognized with the Straight A Award and Magdeline Felmey Memorial Award. Outside of school, she has been involved with many sports such as softball, Gaelic Football, and gymnastics. She currently works part time at Union Jack's in Glenside.

After graduating from EASTERN and Upper Dublin High School, she hopes to join a union and begin working full time as an electrical apprentice, taking the next step toward a successful career in the skilled trades.

2026 – 2027 School Calendar

The Joint Operating Committee approved the calendar for students, teachers, and staff for the 2026-2027 school year. The final calendar will be posted shortly on www.eastech.org.

March 2026	BOARD BRIEF
Program Reviews The Joint Operating Committee approved the Program Reviews for Networking and Cybersecurity and Veterinary Science programs. **Occupational Advisory Committee Members Appointed** The JOC approved the following new Occupational Advisory Committee members: **Allied Health** ▪ Betsy Herczeg (Hospital) Jefferson Abington Hospital ▪ Rosalind Draughn (Nursing Home/Long-term Care) Redline CPR **Culinary Arts** ▪ John Wagner (Catering/Executive Chef) Sunnybrook Golf Club **Collision Repair Technology** ▪ Gerard Schneider (Dealer Body Shop Manager) Caliber Collision **Construction Technology** ▪ Matthew Piotrowski (Architect) Matthew V. Piotrowski, Architect, LLC **Veterinary Science** ▪ Maureen Christiansen (Veterinary Technician) Montgomery County SPCA **Donations** The Joint Operating Committee accepted the following donations to support our programs: ▪ Montgomery County SPCA donated a dental prophylaxis machine and pulse oximeter for the Veterinary Science program ▪ Upper Dublin Township donated firefighting gear for our Protective Services program ▪ Jason Tucker donated a bare low-fuming bronze brazing rod for the Welding Technology program ▪ The Educators Association donated money raised at the Craft Show totaling $3,072.62 to the EASTERN SkillsUSA program **Summer Work Schedule** The Joint Operating Committee approved all 12-month, full-time staff to work a 4-day work week in the summer. **Paid Summer Hours** The Joint Operating Committee approved a list of paid summer hours to be completed during the summer of 2026 by our staff.	**Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructors** 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: ▪ Rachel Walbert, BSN, RN ▪ Sheri Johnson, MSN, RN, CPN, CCM **Internship Supervisors Approved** The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Internship Supervisors: ▪ Damian Potocki from Timberlane, Inc. has been approved to supervisor Aiden Fisher from Carpentry/Abington ▪ Jeff Orkin from Orkin Electric Systems, Inc. has been approved to supervise Luke Freeman from Electrical Technology/Abington ▪ Patrick Leister from Huntingdon Mechanical Contractors, Inc. has been approved to supervise Omar Lozada from HVAC/Hatboro-Horsham. **SkillsUSA State Competition** The Joint Operating Committee approved 27 students and 3 chaperones to attend the State Competition in Hershey from April 8 – 10, 2026. Best of luck to our competitors! **Acceptance of PA Department of Labor School to Career Grant** The Joint Operating Committee accepted the PA Department of Labor Schools to Carer Grant in the amount of $216,090.12. This grant will assist students from EASTERN's eight participating districts developing a continuous path to family sustaining employment and growth for HVAC, Carpentry, Electrical Technology, and Welding Technology careers by placing students during their high school career in related places of employment through Co-op educational opportunities to gain employability and technical skills that can lead to lifelong employment. **Interstate Contract** Five (5) year renewal contract with Interstate for custodial services beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2030. **Building Trades Program Renovation** The Joint Operating Committee accepted the project base bid with recommended alternate bids for an amount not to exceed $1,029,374. This renovation creates space for the Construction Careers and Management program. **Public School Facility Improvement Grant** The JOC approved the submission of the Public School Facility Improvement Grant - Round 2.