EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD BRIEF

April 2026

A report from the April 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

- April Student of the Month
- Job Descriptions
- SkillsUSA State Competition
- Internship Supervisors Approved
- Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructors
- DPI Long Term Substitute
- Supplemental Equipment Grant - $191,394.91

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

*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

April Student of the Month

Michael Lucas, a Hatboro-Horsham High School senior, is the April 2026 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Michael is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Welding 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.

When Michael was in tenth grade, he visited EASTERN during Hatboro-Horsham's Career Expo and explored the Welding Technology program. That experience was a turning point—he realized that a traditional four-year college path wasn't the only route to a successful, rewarding career. Since then, Michael has distinguished himself as a strong leader both in the classroom and throughout the school community. This year, his dedication and leadership earned him election as the SkillsUSA Schoolwide Officer for the PM session.

Michael serves as an EASTERN Student Ambassador, proudly representing his program at numerous recruitment events and fundraisers throughout his two years. His leadership and professionalism led to his selection as a representative of EASTERN at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's *Let's Talk Education* event, hosted at EASTERN in November 2025. Through EASTERN's Student Leadership Organization, SkillsUSA, Michael competed in the Chapter Display competition last year and was selected by his instructor to attend both the 2024 and 2025 SkillsUSA Leadership Conferences. In addition to his technical and leadership accomplishments, Michael is also an accomplished musician at Hatboro-Horsham High School, where he plays bass guitar in the school's jazz band.

Through the Welding Technology program, he has developed a strong technical skill set and earned industry-recognized training that will prepare him for full-time employment. His hands-on experience includes MIG welding, Stick welding, oxyfuel cutting, and plasma arc cutting—skills that are in high demand across the manufacturing and skilled trades industries.

After graduating from EASTERN and Hatboro-Horsham High School, Michael plans to begin his career with Rhodes Industries, where he hopes to transition directly into the workforce. Rhodes Industries specializes in comprehensive fabrication and welding services for both commercial clients and Department of Defense (MIL) projects, offering Michael the opportunity to apply his advanced technical skills in a high-level, real-world environment from day one.

Job Descriptions

The Joint Operating Committee approved the job descriptions for the Construction Careers Management and the Carpentry Instructor position for the 2026-2027 school year.

April 2026	BOARD BRIEF
SkillsUSA State Competition The Superintendents had the opportunity to have breakfast with the AM SkillsUSA State competitors prior to their regularly scheduled meeting with Dr. Plesnarski on April 7, 2026. The PM SkillsUSA State competitors had a pizza party with Administration. Student competitors introduced themselves, and discussed their competition, and future plans. The students attending SkillsUSA State Competition are as follows: ▪ Harrison James - Protective Services/Abington ▪ Alexa Gagnon - Design, Photography, and Illustration/Abington ▪ Savannah Adams - Allied Health/Abington ▪ Julia Lynch - Allied Health/Abington ▪ Ace Williams - Design, Photography, and Illustration/Abington ▪ Bella Bowden - Allied Health/Cheltenham ▪ Alani Rivera - Allied Health/Cheltenham ▪ Ethan Hromisin - Networking and Cybersecurity/Cheltenham ▪ Diana Codio - Networking and Cybersecurity/Cheltenham ▪ Giovanni Francis - Automotive Technology/Cheltenham ▪ Ashley Vargas - Allied Health/Cheltenham ▪ Erica Martin - Automotive Technology/Hatboro-Horsham ▪ Mia Sassane - Allied Health/Hatboro-Horsham ▪ Kade Dufala - Allied Health/Hatboro-Horsham ▪ Lucas Smith - Protective Services/Hatboro-Horsham ▪ Oliver Pratley - Automotive Technology/Springfield ▪ Elias Shatt - Networking and Cybersecurity/Springfield ▪ Karley Bunkin - Culinary Arts/Springfield ▪ Cyniya Mann - Allied Health/Springfield ▪ Mercede Walsh - Design, Photography, and Illustration/Springfield ▪ Morgan Monte - Design, Photography, and Illustration/Upper Dublin ▪ Anthony Ginaldi - Automotive Technology/Upper Dublin ▪ Naomi Loston - Design, Photography, and Illustration/Upper Moreland ▪ Jennalynn Zubyk - Design, Photography, and Illustration/ Upper Moreland	**Internship Supervisors Approved** The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Internship Supervisors: ▪ Victor Baptista from Team Toyota has been approved to supervise Ashlin Smith-Brodsky from Collision Technology/Springfield ▪ Neal Hallowell from Caliber Collision has been approved to supervise Monte Butterfield from Collision Repair Technology/Abington ▪ Dean Seltzer from Techno Metal Post Montco. LLC has been approved to supervise Anthony Mutone from Construction Technology/Springfield **Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor** The Joint Operating Committee approved Irina Glukhovsky as Adjunct Instructor for the Practical Nursing Program for the remainder of the 2025 – 2026 school year: **Design, Illustration, and Photography Instructor – Long Term Substitute** The Joint Operating Committee approved Nico Clinefelter as Design, Illustration, and Photography Instructor LTS effective April 28, 2026, through June 5, 2026, to cover for Nicole Abruzzi while she is on leave. **Supplemental Equipment Grant - $191,394.91** The Joint Operating Committee accepted the Supplemental Equipment Grant in the amount of $191,394.91 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This grant will be used to purchase the following pieces of equipment: <u>Allied Health</u> One (1) – 15 Lead EKG Placement Trainer One (1) – Tri-Scan Max Portable Ultrasound <u>Culinary Arts</u> One (1) – Rational Combi Gas Oven <u>Design, Photography and Illustration</u> 20 – IMAC Bundles with Software <u>Exercise Science and Rehabilitation</u> One (1) – Anatomage Virtual Cadaver Table <u>Protective Services</u> One (1) – FIAR Augmented Reality Fire Extinguisher Trainer