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Coming Events

Joint Operating Committee
Meeting
June 17, 2026
*Seminar Room 8 PM

Awards Night

May 20, 2026, at 7 p.m.,
Upper Moreland High School

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A report from the May 2026 meeting of EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee (JOC). EASTERN is a part of the school districts of Abington, Bryn Athyn, Cheltenham, Hatboro-Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland.

May Student of the Month



Naima Tijani, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the May 2026 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Naima is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Culinary Arts 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 Naima moved to Abington School District in ninth grade, she was introduced to EASTERN by her Abington High School counselor, Mrs. Kelly Miller. That year, Naima attended the Open House and explored several programs, including Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Business and Technology Professional, and Exercise Science and Rehabilitation. "When I walked into Culinary Arts, I immediately felt like I belonged," Naima shared.

At Abington Senior High School, she is a member of both the National Honor Society and Student Council. She is also actively involved in Abington's Mini-THON, helping to raise funds in the fight against childhood cancer. At EASTERN, Naima volunteered her culinary skills at the four-course Joint Operating Committee dinner, and she helped greet and direct guests during Open House. Through her Culinary Arts program, she earned her ServSafe certification, a widely recognized food safety training and certification designed for people working in the food service industry to ensure they understand how to handle, prepare, and store food safely. Outside of school, she works as a cook and provides customer service at Wendy's in Dresher.

"Naima demonstrates strong leadership, teamwork, and communication skills," said Chef Ben Vozzo, EASTERN's Culinary Arts Instructor. "She consistently encourages her peers and celebrates their successes, while making a conscious effort to ensure everyone feels included."

After graduating from EASTERN and Abington Senior High School, she plans to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) to study Culinary Arts. She then hopes to continue her education in business. She is interested in becoming a private chef and, after establishing her business, plans to give back to the community by cooking for those in need.

BOARD BRIEF

Construction Careers Management Instructor

The JOC approved William Shorter as Construction Careers Management Instructor effective July 1, 2026, with sixty-six pre-service hours. Jeff Pakula, EASTERN's Carpentry Instructor, was approved as Mr. Shorter's mentor.

SkillsUSA Nationals and State Officer Training

The JOC approved advisors Rebecca Ashworth, Student Success Coordinator and Allison Latzo, Allied Health instructor, and 10 students to attend the SkillsUSA National Competitions in Atlanta, GA, from May 29-June 6, 2026.

The JOC approved Rebecca Ashworth and Lucas Smith (Hatboro-Horsham and Protective Services student) to attend scheduled State Officer Trainings.

2026-2027 Salary Guide for Teachers

The JOC approved the salary guide for EASTERN teachers, which is based off of the average of our districts.

Conferences for the 2026-2027 School Year

The JOC approved the list of conferences for the 2026 – 2027 School Year.

Practical Nursing Tuition

The JOC approved the Practical Nursing tuition to be \$18,124 for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

Practical Nursing Program Affiliations

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following 2026 – 2027 Practical Nursing Affiliations:

- Holy Redeemer Lafayette
- Saint Joseph Manor
- Holy Redeemer Child Care Center, Meadowbrook
- YMCA in Abington

Practical Nursing Adjunct Faculty Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Practical Nursing Program Adjunct Faculty Members for the remainder of the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- Jillmarie Strumfels, MSN, RN
- Corinne Davis, BSN, RN
- LaToya Savage, MSN, RN
- Tanara Boursizuot, DNP, RN

Substitutes Approved

The JOC approved the following Substitutes for the remainder of the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- Stacey Redi, Cosmetology
- Akilah Green, Design Photography, and Illustration
- Shantel Wilkins, Cosmetology and Networking and Cybersecurity
- Frances Cotellese, Business and Technology Professional and Veterinary Science

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Summer Electrical Work and Interns

The Joint Operating Committee approved Gary Felmei, EASTERN's Electrical Technology Instructor, to work up to three hundred hours on electrical projects at the current contracted rate and the following student interns:

- Jonah Henigan, Abington, Welding
- Anthony Drummond, Abington, HVAC
- Dawson McCain, Springfield, HVAC
- Noah Fuchs, Upper Moreland, Electrical
- Anthony Hairston, Abington, Electrical

Summer Technology Intern:

Andre Callaway, Archbishop Wood / Networking and Cybersecurity as the summer technology intern.

Co-op Training Supervisors Approved

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following Training Supervisors students going on paid internships:

- Christian Roberts, O'Donnell Metal Fabricators, Inc. supervisor for Daniel O'Rourke, HVAC/ Abington
- Elaine McGuire, Rosie's Girls Pre-Apprenticeship Program - IBEW98, supervisor for Molly Smith, Electrical Technology/ Upper Dublin
- Chris Bors, Faulkner Nissan, approved as supervisor for Elijah Carr, Automotive Technology/Abington
- Irvy Boyd, Bredenbeck's Bakery, supervisor for Karley Bunkin, Culinary Arts/Springfield
- Ray Mamone, Caliber Collision, supervisor for David Layton, Collision Repair Technology/ Hatboro-Horsham
- Paul Tholey, Site Specific Design, Inc., supervisor for Christina Melnick, HVAC/Hatboro-Horsham
- Blane Marks, Wissahickon Physical Therapy, supervisor for Grayson Quinn, Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Springfield

Summer Cosmetology Instructors

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of the following Summer Cosmetology instructors at the current contracted hourly rate:

- Sandra Hummel
- Leah Davis
- Haley Tucker
- Nikki Parke
- Mark Folkman