

Summary

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Cosmetology Curriculum
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Personnel – Vet & PN
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Designer Bag Bingo
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Grant

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting

*Seminar Room 8 PM

October 14, 2026*
November 11, 2026*
December 9, 2026
January 13, 2027
February 10, 2027
March 10, 2027*
April 14, 2027
May 12, 2027*
June 16, 2027

Awards Night

May 19, 2027
Upper Moreland HS

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www.eastech.org

A report from the September 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.

September 2026 Student of the Month – Lucas Smith, Protective Services



Lucas Smith, a senior at Hatboro-Horsham High School, has been named September 2026 Student of the Month at the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. He is being recognized for his outstanding performance in EASTERN's Protective Services program. The Student of the Month Award, sponsored by EASTERN's faculty, Joint Operating Committee, and the Willow Grove Rotary Club, honors student excellence, achievement, and service. Ten students are selected for this distinction each year.

Lucas first visited EASTERN in elementary school during a tour. He enjoyed the experience and kept it in mind over the years. When he returned in 10th grade, he met Mr. Raggi, EASTERN's Protective

Services instructor. "I was struck by the community he has built in his classroom and knew that was something I wanted to be part of," said Lucas.

At Hatboro-Horsham, Lucas is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in soccer, spring track, winter track, and bowling. He serves as Captain for his Soccer and Track teams. He is a Hatboro-Horsham Link Crew Mentor, the student-led program that helps ease incoming freshmen's transition into high school. In addition, he serves as a Special Olympics Ambassador.

Through EASTERN's Protective Services program, Lucas has earned several industry-recognized certifications, including CPR/AED and multiple FEMA ICS/NIMS emergency management credentials. He has also been selected as a SkillsUSA Pennsylvania State Officer and serves as the student representative on EASTERN's Executive Advisory Committee. At EASTERN's May 2026 Awards Night, he received the Director's Award, Attendance Award, Distinguished Student in Protective Services Award, and Straight A Award.

Outside of school, he enjoys giving back to his community through St. John's Episcopal Church, where he volunteers at the food bank. He has also volunteered at EASTERN events such as Tenth Grade Career Expo, Designer Bag Bingo, the Craft Fair, and Open House.

After graduating from Hatboro-Horsham and completing the Protective Services program, Lucas plans to join the Marine Corps for four years, then pursue an associate's degree in criminal justice in Florida. He hopes to become a game warden in Florida and eventually return to Pennsylvania to work as a police officer.

BOARD BRIEF

Cosmetology Curriculum Hours

The Joint Operating Committee approved Cosmetology instruction during the four in-service days on November 3, 2026, March 22, 2027, March 23, 2027, and May 18, 2027.

Donations

The Joint Operating Committee accepted the donation of a Gardyne Hydroponic System and starter plants from Kevin and Karley Bunkin for the Culinary Arts program.

Personnel

Veterinary Science

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of the following Veterinary Science students as weekend interns to care for on-site animals.

- Daralynn Astree, Cheltenham SD
- Alivia DuPont, Lower Moreland SD
- Liliana Mexquititla-Martinez - Springfield SD

Adult Supervisors for the weekend animal care include the following EASTERN staff members:

- Karen McGeehan, Veterinary Science Instructor
- Elena Hays, Instructional Aide
- Eileen Collins, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Director
- Trisha Simmler-Totaro, Instructional Aide for Design, Photography, and Illustration
- Kyle Maurer, Facilities Technician
- Shannon Rowley-Lavelle, Part-Time Administrative Assistant to the Main Office
- Kristin Waldner, Administrative Assistant to the Practical Nursing Coordinator

Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor

The Joint Operating Committee approved Cathleen Evans, PhD, RN, as Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

Designer Bag Bingo

EASTERN is holding its Designer Bag Bingo on October 13, 2026, at Upper Moreland High School in the cafeteria. Bingo will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. and doors will open at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$35.00 online in advance (10 games + dauber), or \$40.00 cash only at the door.

All proceeds will benefit SkillsUSA and the EASTERN Foundation, which in turn benefit our EASTERN students. Reserve your seats here – <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2026-eastern-designer-bag-bingo/items>.

September 2026

GRANTS

PA Smart Grant

The Joint Operating Committee approved the acceptance of the PA Smart Grant with Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) as the fiscal agent. EASTERN will receive funding for the following activities:

Activity	Description
Support the launch of the new Construction Careers and Management Program	Mentoring-Experienced professional to mentor new instructor
	Professional Development for new instructor during the summer
	Marketing of Architecture and Construction Cluster programs
	Construction Careers and Management program Supplies and Consumables
	Steel leg workbenches for lab area
Add fiberoptics to the Electrical Technology Program	Electrical Technology program supplies
	Fiber Optic Fusion Splicer
	Copper Telecommunications Test Equipment
Lease Welding Program for MCCC to offer Welding training at night	Lease charge to the MCCC
	Payment from MCCC to teachers for evening program (inc. benefits)

PennDOT Grant

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged that EASTERN has applied for the Career and technical Education Grant to fund the implementation of the PennDOT Construction Inspector Certification Program in the Continuing Education Department. MontcoWorks would assist in student and employer outreach.

Feminine Hygiene Products Grant

The Joint Operating Committee approved the acceptance of the Feminine Hygiene Products Grant to procure menstrual products/dispensers for students.