BOARD BRIEF: November 2026

Summary

Student of the Month
SkillsUSA State Initiative
September 30 Enrollment
2027 – 2028 Program Offerings
New Appointments for the 2026 – 2027 OAC
Practical Nursing Appointments
Training Supervisors Approved
2027 – 2028 General Fund Budget
PA Smart Grant – Welding
EASTERN Holiday Craft Fair

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting
*Seminar Room 8 PM

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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A report from the November 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.

November 2026 Student of the Month – Anthony Hairston, Electrical Technology



Anthony Hairston, a senior at Abington Senior High School, has been named November 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 Electrical Technology 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.

Anthony first learned about EASTERN through his school counselor at Abington High School and later attended the 10th Grade Career Expo. "Prior to EASTERN, I felt lost," said Anthony. "I had a friend who took Business and raved about the school. I enjoy working with my hands, so I decided to enroll in the Electrical Technology program." Anthony initially entered the program thinking it would serve as a backup while he explored career paths. "At first, it was my Plan B," said Anthony. "But as I gained more experience and improved my skills, it became my Plan A."

At Abington High School, Anthony has been a consistent Honor Roll student since freshman year, and was a member of the basketball team. He also participates in the Vibe and Imagine Club, in which he helped to organize toy drives for local children in need.

Through EASTERN's Electrical Technology program, Anthony has earned several trenching certifications, an important credential in the electrical field. As a junior, he was selected as the SkillsUSA Class Representative for Electrical Technology. Anthony interviewed for and was chosen as a 2026 summer intern for the Facilities department headed by his Electrical Technology Instructor, Gary Felmey, and EASTERN Facilities Manager, Fred Fox. At EASTERN's Awards Night in May 2026, Anthony received The Straight A and Magdeline Felmey Memorial Award.

Anthony's goal for his senior year is to participate in co-op — a paid internship program in which students work four out of the five days they would typically attend EASTERN — giving him valuable real-world experience and potential employment connections. He is also excited that the program serves as a pre-apprenticeship pathway and hopes to become a union apprentice, following in his uncle's footsteps.

Outside of school, Anthony works at Kids Footlocker where he handles shipments, organizes inventory, and is one of the top salespeople on the floor. He is also a dedicated member of the Philly Kappa League, a renowned youth mentorship program for male students in grades 6 – 12. After graduation, he hopes to begin his apprenticeship in the Electrical Union.

BOARD BRIEF

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SkillsUSA State Initiative

The Joint Operating Committee approved the November 17 Turkey Trot to raise money for the SkillsUSA State Initiative, Mental Health Association of Pennsylvania. Each class representative will wear a homemade Turkey costume and participate in an obstacle course.

September 30 Enrollment

The Joint Operating Committee accepted September 30 enrollment of 690 secondary school students.

2027 – 2028 Program Offerings

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN's High School Program Offerings for the 2027–2028 school year. EASTERN will maintain its current 17 program offerings, continuing to provide students with a diverse range of career and technical education opportunities.

New Appointments for the 2026 – 2027 Occupation Advisory Committees

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following new appointment for the Occupational Advisory Committees:

<u>Automotive Technology</u>
Colton Deitz (Service and Parts)
American Honda Motors

<u>Collision Technology</u>
Will Jones (Former Student Representative)
Image One Industries

<u>Exercise Science and Rehabilitation</u>
Christine Frank (Educational)
Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Dawn Morgan (Physical Therapist)
Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital

Andrea Pitts (Physical Therapist)
School District of Philadelphia

<u>Design, Photography and Illustration</u>
Meghan Reilly (Graphic Design)
Iris Creative Group

<u>Protective Services</u>
Grant Rounds (Emergency Medical Services)
Second Alarmers Rescue Squad

<u>Welding Technology</u>
Mike Lucas (Apprentice)
Rhoads Industries

Practical Nursing Appointments

The Joint Operating Committee approved the appointment of Karen Foster as Practical Nursing Instructor effective, November 16, 2026. Jon Esposito has been approved to provide orientation, planning, and mentoring for Ms. Foster.

Training Supervisors Approved

The Joint Operating approved the following Training Supervisors for EASTERN students:
John Bolt from PennDOT for both Caleb Straub and William Marcolina from the Automotive Technology Program and Springfield Township High School.

John Morgan from PennDOT for Banjamin Davis from Welding Technology and Jenkintown High School.

2027 – 2028 General Fund Budget

The Joint Operating Committee approved the operating budget for the 2027 – 2028 school year, and the capital assessment fee. Recommended by the Administrative Advisory Committee. They also approved to transmit the 2027 – 2028 budget to each of the participating school districts for consideration and approval by their Board of School Directors before February 1, 2027.

PA Smart Grant – Welding

The Joint Operating Committee approved and ratified the contract between EASTERN and Montgomery County Community College's (MCCC) Welding I Program. EASTERN is expanding opportunities for postsecondary career training by serving as a location for MCCC's Welding I program.

EASTERN Holiday Craft Fair

Mark your calendars for December 6! EASTERN will host its annual Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring a variety of vendors and great opportunities to get a head start on your holiday shopping.

Start your morning at 8:30 a.m. with a Holiday Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Old York Road in EASTERN's Restaurant. Tickets are $15 and will be available at the door.

Just stopping by to shop? Admission to the Craft Fair is free! Come on in, browse the vendors, and get some holiday shopping done!