

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

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### TOPICS

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year

Enrollment

SkillsUSA Nationals

Legislative Updates

HVAC Program Space

Interest Surveys

#### Past Events

6/24: Erik Odhner (Bryn Athyn) visited EASTERN

6/26 and 8/5:

Administrative Retreat

7/24-7/26: PACTA Conference

7/29: Met with Representative Sanchez (with Dr. Art Levinowitz)

7/30: David Hoffman from Upper Dublin visited EASTERN

#### Upcoming Events

8/28 & 8/29 In-Service

8/29 Practical Nursing Graduation

9/04 First day for students

9/16 Parents Night

9/18 Counselor/Special Education Liaison Meeting

10/3 Principals' Advisory Meeting

10/8 Rep. Sanchez to tour EASTERN

## Welcome 2019-2020 School Year

**INNOVATION**  
**TEAMWORK RESPECT**

The 2019-2020 school year is fast approaching, and we are preparing for an outstanding year. Respect, Teamwork, and Innovation are the key words for the year. What can career and technical education look like in 2020 to provide optimal experiences and outcomes for our students? What does innovation look like in every level of our school, from leadership to teaching to learning? How can we use the pillars of respect and teamwork to form the foundation to support innovative practices at EASTERN? These questions open opportunities to continue to build upon EASTERN's history of excellence.

We already have some initiatives and goals in the pipeline. We will be developing and presenting a plan to the Joint Operating Committee to open a new program, Robotics and Automated Technology. We will be working with our participating districts to integrate our Career Pathways program with the programs of study offered by each district. We will be launching a revised program, Networking and Cybersecurity, which adds a critical and in-demand skill of cybersecurity in the computer networking curriculum. We will be increasing and strengthening our partnerships to help connect our students to the workplace, community, and post-secondary institutions. As part of this goal, we will be working with the PA Department of Labor and Industry to formally have our Electrical Technology program approved as a Registered Pre-Apprenticeship program. We will also be forming an OSHA Alliance to partner with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to ensure our students graduate ready to create and support safe work environments.

### Projected Enrollment

Current enrollment figures show approximately 600 students are seeking entrance into our programs with many students placed on a wait list. We anticipate 549 students being enrolled on day one of the 2019-2020 school year.

#### Waitlisted Programs

Allied Health (16)  
 Electrical Technology (14)  
 Veterinary Science (12)  
 Automotive Technology (3)  
 HVAC (3)  
 Welding Technology (3)  
 Construction Technology (1)

### SkillsUSA Nationals

Cassie Lynch, a 2019 graduate of Jenkintown and EASTERN's Veterinary Science program, represented our school at the National SkillsUSA Competition. While she did not earn a medal, she placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the Customer Service Competition. It is a huge accomplishment to make it to the national competition. We are very proud of Cassie.

## Legislative Updates

On June 5, 2019, I joined my peers in the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators to participate in the State Advocacy Day for CTE. I met with Representative Stephens and representatives from the offices of Senator Haywood and Senator Collet. I advocated for a series of House Bills supporting CTE, Plan Con, and using the additional \$10M for CTE in Governor Wolf's budget for equipment and subsidy.

Our advocacy paid off. Governor Wolf signed a budget for 2019-2020 that gave \$10M more to CTE, \$7M allocated to subsidy and \$3M allocated to the Supplemental Equipment Grants. For EASTERN, this means \$43,000 more in subsidy and equipment this year. A series of bills passed the house and moved to the Senate and will be reviewed when their session opens again in September. Two important bills may need some advocacy to pass. HB522 would award tax credits to businesses that contribute to CTE programs and HB396 would require Workforce Development Boards to have CTE representation.

We will continue to advocate PlanCon. The Senate and House passed the Act of 2019 which continues the moratorium on reimbursable school building projects for the 2019-2020 school year. PlanCon provides a mechanism for higher reimbursements on CTE construction to incentivize districts to invest in their technical schools. This would help to expand future opportunities for the school.

## Representative Sanchez to visit EASTERN

Dr. Levinowitz and I visited Representative Sanchez at his office in Abington on July 29, 2019. Our conversation focused on thanking him for his role in approving Governor Wolf's budget which allocated \$10M more for CTE subsidy and equipment. We also thanked him for his role in supporting the CTE legislation that recently passed the House of Representatives. We spoke to him about the importance of Plan Con for technical schools, since the reimbursement rate for technical schools is higher to encourage district support of renovations and new construction. Representative Sanchez will be visiting EASTERN at 9:30 a.m. on October 8<sup>th</sup>. All JOC members are encouraged and more than welcome to attend.

## HVAC Program Space

September's Joint Operating Committee Agenda Meeting will include a tour of the new HVAC program space. The work required to make this move is almost complete. I would like to thank the Joint Operating Committee for their support. I would also like to thank Mr. Greb, Mr. Felmei and his students, Mr. Jacoby and his students, and Aramark for helping to make this relocation a reality. This relocation resulted in an increased capacity for HVAC, a larger lab space, and a designated theory room.

The timing of this project was perfect for many reasons. Most importantly, the project improved the ability of the HVAC program to educate and train students by giving a more suitable lab space to promote technical skill attainment and giving a separate theory space to support the academic and technical foundations behind the hands-on skills of the program. Also, with a new roof project slated for next summer, it was important to move internal equipment that requires roof access to minimize alterations to a new roof. All three programs in the construction bay will have full enrollment with eighteen students waiting to get in. The waitlist would have been higher, at twenty-two, without the relocation of HVAC.

## Interest Surveys

In 2018-2019, EASTERN's Executive Advisory Committee recommended new programs, Robotics and Automated Technology and Exercise and Sports Science. We shared the programs with the principals and superintendents from our participating districts and the Joint Operating Committee. We received supportive feedback, with more enthusiasm for Robotics and Automated Technology than Exercise and Sports Science.

In May, we asked our high schools to provide feedback to us on these potential programs. Then we developed an interest survey and asked our participating districts to give the survey to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Unfortunately, our survey design did not allow us to disaggregate the data by high school. We did, however, receive 665 responses from 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders from our participating districts. When adding these new programs, Exercise and Sports Science ranked first, and Robotics and Automated Technology ranked seventh out of sixteen. We believe the use of Mechatronics rather than Robotics and Automated Technology created confusion and skewed the results. At the August JOC Agenda meeting, I will be presenting a proposal for opening a Robotics and Automated Technology program for the 2020-2021 school year.