

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

DR. CATHLEEN PLESNARSKI

### TOPICS

Robotics and Automated Technology  
 Governor Wolf Visit  
 Celebrating EASTERN Student Recognition  
 School-to-Career Coordinator  
 Culinary Arts Instructor  
 Facilities Ad-Hoc  
 Career Pathways  
 Joint Operating Committee Orientation

### Past Events

12/17 Facility Ad Hoc  
 1/14 UM District Planning  
 1/15 Career Pathways  
 1/15 Principals' Advisory  
 2/4 Administrative Advisory

### Upcoming Events

2/28 Senator Collett Visit  
 2/26-2/27 Career Expo  
 3/1 Advisory Appreciation Brunch, School Directors' Orientation and Open House  
 3/2 UD District Planning  
 3/3 Administrative Advisory  
 4/15-17 SkillsUSA State Competitions

EASTERN's Adult Practical Nursing Program is ranked #15 in the Top Pennsylvania Colleges for Lifetime Earnings



## Robotics and Automated Technology

EASTERN's new Robotics and Automated Technology program will open in the 2020-2021 school year. Construction plans are complete, and the renovations will start in June. The Joint Operating Committee approved the hiring of Mr. Christopher Passante as the new instructor for this program. Mr. Passante has numerous years of industry experience working in robotics and automated technology and experience teaching and launching this program.



## Governor Wolf Visit

EASTERN was honored to host Governor Wolf for a tour of our programs. I would like to thank Representative Thomas Murt and Dr. Robert Milrod, Superintendent of Upper Moreland, for initiating this visit. The students were proud to host the Governor and speak with him about their experiences at EASTERN and their future career goals.



## Celebrating EASTERN

In February, we celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. In honor of CTE month, I want to take a moment to share why CTE, and EASTERN, is a good choice for students.

- EASTERN expands opportunities for students, allowing them to choose among multiple pathways like employment, apprenticeship training, and college.
- Students graduate with more than just a high school diploma. They can earn college credits, multiple industry certifications and licenses, and graduate with experience in their field through job-shadowing and internships.
- Instruction blends theory and hands-on learning to engage students in an environment that mirrors the real world.
- Students participate in SkillsUSA to learn about leadership and test their technical skills through competition.
- EASTERN's Educational Foundation focuses on student recognition and awards approximately \$40,000 per year in scholarships and awards.

## Student Recognition

### Students of the Month for December - February

Kody Levine, Collision Repair, Lower Moreland  
Isabella Fenerty, Veterinary Science, Upper Moreland  
Jonah Oberman, Welding, Abington

### SkillsUSA District 2 Competition

In January, EASTERN students competed in technical and leadership competitions against students from seven other career and technical schools. We are very proud of our students who won gold medals in seven competitions, silver in six, and bronze in two. The following first-place winners will continue to the state competition in April.

**Danielle Doyle**, Collision Repair, Springfield  
**Rachel Brodsky**, Culinary Arts, Lower Moreland  
**Marcus Soucy**, Culinary Arts, Hatboro-Horsham  
**Kody Levine**, Collision Repair, Lower Moreland  
**Emma Rose**, Business & Tech. Prof., Abington  
**Karis Hudson**, Veterinary Science, Hatboro-Horsham  
**Ryan Coughlan**, Commercial Art, Springfield  
**Elizabeth Falcone**, Veterinary Science, Springfield  
**Laurence Jacoby**, Commercial Art, Springfield  
**Kayla Marshall**, Business & Tech. Prof., Cheltenham  
**Gabriella Gushue**, Cosmetology, Hatboro Horsham  
**Elvin Cruz**, Collision Repair, Springfield  
**Abby Mason**, Cosmetology, Hatboro-Horsham

## School-to-Career Coordinator

Hayley Granacher was selected to fill the newly created position of School-to-Career Coordinator. Ms. Granacher will help to transition our students to their next step through organizing college and career fairs, setting up job-shadowing and paid internship experiences, negotiating more robust articulation agreements, and strengthening our business and industry partnerships. Ms. Granacher previously served as EASTERN's Culinary Arts Instructor.

## Culinary Arts Instructor

Benjamin Vozzo was selected as the Culinary Arts Instructor starting in January 2020. Mr. Vozzo has an Associate of Culinary Arts from the Restaurant School of Philadelphia, and a Bachelor of Science in Food Marketing from Saint Joseph University. He has experience working abroad in Europe learning to prepare Spanish, French and Italian cuisine.

## Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee continues to examine long-term facility planning for EASTERN. The committee examined historical and projected enrollment, best practices in career and technical facilities planning, and space limitations experienced by programs at EASTERN. After examining multiple options against established criteria, the committee has elected to further evaluate an option for more comprehensive renovations at EASTERN. At the February Joint Operating Committee meeting, EASTERN was granted approval to contract with D'Huy Engineering to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of performing more extensive renovations to increase the square footage of programs and to allow future growth.

## Career Pathways

One of our school goals this year is to work with our districts to systematically integrate EASTERN's Pathways Program with the programs of study offered by each participating district to a degree which allows current and prospective students to select and navigate a career pathway. We held our first Career Pathways meetings on January 15th. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Joann Hudak of the National Center for College and Career Readiness. Her national perspective on best practices in career pathway planning at the high-school level was invaluable. The meeting was well-attended by district staff that included Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Principals, Counselors, and Special Education Coordinators.

## Joint Operating Committee Orientation

On January 29, 2020 we held an orientation for our new JOC members. The following JOC members are beginning their service to EASTERN:

**Jennifer O'Rourke** of Abington School District

**Charles Burdell-Williams** of Cheltenham School District

**Tara Conner-Hallston** of Hatboro-Horsham School District

**Lance Wolbransky** of Lower Moreland School District

**Paul Tkacs** of Upper Moreland School District