

May 2020

A report from the May 2020 meeting of EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee. EASTERN is a part of the school districts of Abington, Bryn Athyn, Cheltenham, Hatboro-Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland.

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Coming Events

Joint Operating Committee
Virtual, 8 PM

June 17, 2020

Get the Board Brief by email contact Amy Shields for more information at ashields@eastech.org 215.784.4806

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May Student of the Month

Rebecca Thompson, a Hatboro-Horsham High School senior, is the May 2020 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Rebecca is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Protective Services 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.

Rebecca always wanted a career that would involve helping others. She knew a few students who had attended EASTERN's Protective Services program, and she felt as though the program would give her a head start in her career training and show her all of the career pathways available in the field.

Rebecca is extremely involved in EASTERN's student leadership organization, SkillsUSA, and is currently a School-Wide Officer. Through EASTERN's Protective Services program, Rebecca has received industry-standard certifications such as National Incident Management 100, 200, 700 and 800, and has received her CPR certification through the American Heart Association. Last year, as a junior in the program, Rebecca received the Attendance Award at EASTERN's annual Awards Ceremony.

At Hatboro-Horsham High School, Rebecca is a member of the band, and the Color Guard Captain. She also works part-time as a member of the dining room staff at Springhouse Estates.

"Rebecca is an outstanding student with a bright future," said Mark Zaslavsky, EASTERN's Protective Services Instructor. "This year I have selected her as Officer-in-Charge for our program, which has visibly enhanced her leadership skills and confidence. I am proud of her accomplishments."

After graduation from EASTERN and Hatboro-Horsham High School, Rebecca plans to attend Montgomery County Community College for her EMS Certificate while volunteering for a rescue squad. She would like to continue her education to become a paramedic.

Awards Night – May 27, 2020

Awards Night will be held virtually this year through a slideshow presentation announcing award winners made available for public viewing on EASTERN's website, www.eastech.org, on May 27th at 7:00 PM. We are pleased to recognize all of these outstanding students and are grateful for the EASTERN Foundation and for all of our award contributors for making this event possible.

Non-Resident Tuition for 2020 - 2021

Non-resident, charter, and cyber-charter school tuition for the 2020 – 2021 year has been approved at \$19,502 per student.

Practical Nursing Tuition 2020 - 2021

Student tuition for the Practical Nursing program for the 2020 – 2021 school year was approved at \$15,450 per student.

Joint Operating Committee Treasurer Re-elected

Lieu Kim, EASTERN’s Accountant, was re-elected as Joint Operating Committee Treasurer for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

EASTERN Executive Director Interviewed by Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Dr. Plesnarski was interviewed by Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) regarding EASTERN’s response during the mandatory school closures and challenges faced by career and technical schools. The video in its entirety is located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xV9UVoIu04>.

Practical Nursing Program Receives Grant

EASTERN’s Practical Nursing Program has been allocated approximately \$500,000 in federal CARES Grant money. The CARES Act provides funding for colleges and universities, many of which are facing a financial threat with the coronavirus.

New Employees Appointed

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following new employees:

- Donald Tucker as Facility Manager effective June 1, 2020. Mr. Tucker comes to us from Abington-Jefferson Health.
- Trisha Simmler-Totaro as Commercial Art Instructional Aide effective September 2, 2020. Mrs. Simmler-Totaro has been EASTERN’s Long Term Substitute Instructional Aide for Commercial Art since September 2018.
- Fred Fox as Facilities Maintenance Technician effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Fox is a 2017 EASTERN Electrical Technology alum who has been working for Aramark since graduation.

Revised Job Descriptions

The Joint Operating Committee approved the follow job description changes:

- Technology Manager - Lou Geld, EASTERN’s Technology Manager, will now be part of the Administrative Team.
- Math Integration Aide – Greg Shields, Data and Testing Aide, will now work as the Math Integration Aide. This updated position will now report to Allison Larson, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education.
- Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator – Amy Shields, Organizational Advancement Director, will now work as the Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator. This updated position will now report to Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, EASTERN’s Executive Director.

Summer Cosmetology

Cosmetology Instructors, Wendy Leyden, and Amy Mednick, to work 91 additional hours each to provide online Cosmetology instruction through July 3, 2020

Veterinary Science Student accepted into Colorado State University’s President’s Leadership program

EASTERN is proud to announce that Veterinary Science/Upper Moreland High School senior, Isabella Fenerty, has been accepted into Colorado State University’s President’s Leadership Program. She has chosen Colorado State University and will major in Animal Science Biology following their Pre-Vet program. She will also pursue a double minor in Business Administration and President’s Leadership Program.

EASTERN Commercial Art Student Received Scholarship to Pennsylvania College of Art and Design

EASTERN is proud to announce that Commercial Art/Calvary Christian High School senior, Jenna Cervone, has received a partial scholarship to Pennsylvania College of Art and Design (PCAD) in Lancaster, PA. After she completes the foundation year at PCAD, which gives her the opportunity to sharpen her skills and confirm her major choice, Jenna plans to major in Graphic Design.

Continuity of Education Plan Available

Our administration and faculty worked diligently on EASTERN’s Continuity of Education Plan, which can be found on our website – www.eastech.org.

Our teachers have been utilizing various online platforms to make this transition effective and impactful, and many of our students are still able to access and earn valuable industry certifications during this time.