



BOARD BRIEF

December 2020

A report from the December 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.

Summary

- December Student of the Month
- Presidential Scholar
- JOC Reorganization
- Elementary and Middle School Tours Reimagined
- Allied Health Program Expansion
- EASTERN Foundation
- ATC Articulation Agreement
- Virtual SkillsUSA Leadership Conference
- PDE Grants Awarded
- 2021 – 2022 Preliminary Calendar Approved
- School Directory and Room Signage
- Capital Plan Renovations

Coming Events

Joint Operating Committee Meeting
Virtual - 8 PM

- January 13, 2021
- February 10, 2021
- March 10, 2021
- April 14, 2021
- May 12, 2021
- June 16, 2021

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

Visit our website www.eastech.org

You can support the EASTERN Foundation online at: Eastech.org/foundation/donate

December Student of the Month

Greg Destefano, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the December 2020 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Greg is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Veterinary Science 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.

Greg has always had a love for animals, and in particular, family pets. At the suggestion of his Abington guidance counselor, Greg visited EASTERN during Abington Senior High School's Tenth Grade Career Expo visit. He found Veterinary Science to be perfect for him since he aspires to become a Veterinarian.

At EASTERN, Greg has proven to be a leader in the Veterinary Science class and was selected as Team Leader by his instructor. Greg participated in the virtual SkillsUSA Leadership Conference on November 13, where he achieved the SkillsUSA Framework Certification which helps students to understand what it takes to be career-ready, and the Statesman Assessment Award for his SkillsUSA knowledge and civil awareness. Last May at EASTERN's Virtual Awards Night, Greg received the Straight A Award. At Abington Senior High School, Greg is a member of the Varsity Golf Team, Student Council, and National Honor Society. As a junior, he was also selected as an Abington Senior High School Student of the Month.

Greg currently works part-time at Hamilton Animal Hospital in Roslyn where he assists the Veterinarian and Senior Vet Technicians to conduct check-ups and procedures. Greg takes the patient information and logs details into Hamilton Animal Hospital's database.

After graduation from Abington Senior High School and EASTERN, Greg plans to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he will major in Biology/Pre-Veterinary. Ultimately, he plans to become a Veterinarian for small animals.

Presidential Scholar

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has selected Greg Destefano, Abington Senior High School and Veterinary Science senior, as one of three Career and Technical Education Presidential Scholars moving forward nationally to represent Pennsylvania.

December 2020

Joint Operating Committee Board Members

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged the terms and membership for each participating school district.

Term: December 2020 – November 2023

Abington – Mr. Daniel Kaye

Cheltenham – Mr. Charles Burdell-Williams

Jenkintown – Ms. Carolyn Riley

Term: December 2019 – November 2022

Hatboro-Horsham – Ms. Tara Conner-Halston

Lower Moreland – Mr. Lance Wolbransky

Upper Dublin – Dr. Art Levinowitz

Term: December 2018 – November 2021

Bryn Athyn – Mr. Erik Odhner

Springfield – Mr. Walter Lapidus

Upper Moreland – Mr. Paul Tkacs

The following officers were elected:

Dr. Art Levinowitz, President – Term: December 9, 2020 – December 8, 2021

Ms. Carolyn Riley, Vice President – Term: December 9, 2020 – December 8, 2021

Elementary and Middle School Tours Reimagined

In an effort to keep all students and staff as safe as possible, at EASTERN and our participating schools, we made the difficult decision to reimagine the elementary and middle school tours for 2021.

We recently finished a series of pre-recorded tours that were shared with all participating schools. All the videos can be found on our Counselor Support webpage - <https://www.eastech.org/counselors/>

Allied Health Program Expansion

The Joint Operating Committee approved to expand the Allied Health program to a two-teacher program and increase the capacity from 30 to 60 starting the 2021-2022 school year.

EASTERN Foundation

On November 19, 2020, the EASTERN Foundation members sponsored a free lunch from Mod Pizza for all staff at EASTERN to show appreciation for all they are doing during these challenging times.

Automotive Training Center

EASTERN's Automotive Technology and Collision Repair Technology students can benefit from a partnership with Automotive Training Center (ATC). ATC will evaluate the student's records received from EASTERN and award advanced standing credit for up to three subject areas (not to exceed a maximum of 16 weeks of study).

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Virtual SkillsUSA Leadership Conference

On November 13, 2020, a delegation of 18 EASTERN SkillsUSA students and one Advisor participated in the Annual District 2 Career and Technical Student Organization's Leadership Conference virtually. This virtual conference was designed for SkillsUSA members to develop their personal, workplace, and technical skills in the areas in which they need the most development. The decision to conduct this conference through Zoom in 2020 was made in the best interest of all students and in response to the restrictions on large gatherings due to COVID-19.

SkillsUSA functions as EASTERN's Student Leadership Organization, in which program and school-wide officers represent their programs and EASTERN as ambassadors. Student ambassadors are critical to EASTERN and serve as an example of what career and technical education can do for self-confidence, self-assurance, and leadership development. The students chosen to participate have displayed leadership qualities and were nominated by their EASTERN instructors. A list of all certificate-earning students can be found on our website at www.eastech.org.

Pennsylvania Department of Education Grants Awarded

On November 16, PDE announced the recipients of more than \$9 million in competitive 2020-2021 Safe Schools Targeted Grants. Grants are awarded to schools to purchase safety and security-related equipment. EASTERN has been selected to receive \$25,000.00, which will be used to purchase a new security camera system for the school.

On November 18, PDE announced that it is awarding competitive grants to 32 Career and Technical Centers (CTC) and Area Vocational Technical Education Schools and two school districts across the state for the purchase of new equipment aligned to training students in high-demand occupations. EASTERN has been selected to receive \$49,529.00.

2021 – 2022 Preliminary School Calendar

The 2021 – 2022 Preliminary School Calendar has been approved and it now available at www.easech.org.

School Directory and Room Signs

A new school directory at EASTERN's main entrance and hanging program signage throughout the building has been approved.

Capital Plan Renovations

Breslin Architects has been authorized to develop plans for main office renovations to include layout reconfiguration, interior upgrades, ADA accessibility, and secure entry improvements, and the replacement of exterior doors.