

## January 2021

*A report from the January 2021 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

- Student of the Month
- Construction Technology Program Honored by Upper Moreland Police
- Practical Nursing Program Cares Grant
- 2019 – 2020 Key Indicators
- Robotics Marketing
- Allied Health Instructor Approved
- Landscape Maintenance Contract/Snow Removal
- Capital Plan

### Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting  
Seminar Room 8 PM

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](mailto:ashields@eastech.org) 215.784.4806*

*Visit our website [www.eastech.org](http://www.eastech.org)*

*You can support the EASTERN Foundation online at: [Eastech.org/foundation/donate](http://Eastech.org/foundation/donate)*

### January Student of the Month

Elvin Cruz, a Springfield Township High School senior, is the January 2021 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. Elvin is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Collision Repair Technology 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.

Elvin moved to Springfield Township in 2019 and was pleased to find that attending a career and technical program at EASTERN was an opportunity available to him. Prior to attending Springfield Township High School and EASTERN, Elvin attended W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences where he studied Horticulture and was a member of the National Student Vocational Agricultural Organization. Starting at EASTERN, Elvin chose the Automotive Technology program, but he quickly found that Collision Repair Technology merged his two greatest interest – cars and custom design painting.

At EASTERN, Elvin was chosen by his Collision Repair Technology Instructor, Mr. Steve Parke, to attend the Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Fall Leadership conference both his junior and senior year. He is an active member of SkillsUSA, EASTERN's Student Leadership program, and credits the program for teaching him valuable leadership skills. He works part-time at Arnold's Family Fun Center where he operates rides and supervises children. Elvin has participated in two teen ministry mission trips: Haiti and Mississippi.

“Elvin is extremely dedicated to education,” said Steve Parke, EASTERN's Collision Repair Technology Instructor. “He pushes himself each day to be focused and helpful to others. I am very proud of him for being selected as the January Student of the Month, and I cannot wait to see where his postsecondary education and career take him.”

After graduation from Springfield High School and EASTERN, he plans to attend Syracuse University majoring in Architecture. Ultimately, he would like to own his own company.

**Construction Technology Program Honored by Upper Moreland Police Department**

On December 15, 2020, Upper Moreland Township K9 Officers, Brian Rems and Matthew Snyder, presented EASTERN Construction Technology Instructor, Mr. Jeffrey Pakula, with a plaque for the Construction Technology program’s contributions to building the tri-township K9 training facility for Upper Moreland, Hatboro, and Warrington Police Departments. The new training facility is in Warrington Township at Lower Nike Park.

EASTERN Construction Technology students, along with Mr. Pakula, worked to build the training apparatus such as obstacle course search boxes used in agility and search test training for the police dogs. The facility contains six boxes for suspect searches, including low crawl, hurtles, long jump, catwalk, and two separate dog runs. The project was started in 2019 and completed in early 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Police Departments were unable to have an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to thank all their partners who assisted in building the facility, but they hope to schedule something for the near future.

“This was a great experience for my students,” said Jeff Pakula, EASTERN Construction Technology Instructor. “They were able to use their carpentry skills in a way that is not typical in my class. I am looking forward to inviting them to the K9 training facility so they can see their efforts in action.”

Maintaining a K9 Unit benefits the community and surrounding communities. The K9 Unit is available on call 24/7 for high priority incidents for the purposes of tracking, searches, and explosive or drug detection. The K9 program is integral in keeping both residents and officers safe as they fulfill their duties.

**EASTERN’s Practical Nursing Program CARES Grant**

EASTERN’s Practical Nursing program is the recipient of approximately \$500,000 in funding from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. This funding has been used for student reimbursements, supplies such as no-touch thermometers, face shields, N95 masks, and protective goggles, laptops, simulation equipment, and facility upgrades such as Bipolar Ionization.

**2019- 2020 Key Indicators**

The 2019-2020 Key Indicators data were approved by the Joint Operating Committee for use in publications and communications. EASTERN monitors and uses data on enrollment, attendance, retention, program completion, placement, industry certification attainment, and NOCTI performance to continuously improve programming and outcomes for our students.

**Robotics Marketing**

To aid in recruitment for EASTERN’s newest program, Robotics and Automated Technology, we are working with Ad Taxi/Montgomery Media on a targeted online campaign.

The Facebook piece includes retargeting, Carousel ads, Instagram, A/B testing, and more focused targeting due to an upgraded system used by AdTaxi. They also included a landing webpage specifically for Robotics and Automated Technology directing potential students to the sign up for the Virtual Career Expo visitation on February 25.

**Allied Health Instructor Approved**

EASTERN’s Joint Operating Committee approved Maria Festa as our second Allied Health Instructor. Ms. Festa will be starting early to provide coverage for Mrs. Whitehead who will be out on leave for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

**Landscape Maintenance Contract/Snow Removal**

EASTERN’s Joint Operating Committee approved the selection of Youngscape for landscape maintenance including spring and fall cleanup, mulching, shrubbery trimming and weed control, as well as snow removal.

**Capital Plan**

EASTERN’s Joint Operating Committee approved to hire Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects to perform the full architecture and engineering consulting services for design, bidding, and construction administration to begin Phase 2 of the Capital Plan which includes the automotive area, nurse’s suite, and main office.