

## February 2021

*A report from the February 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
- School-to-Career Initiatives
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- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program
- NOCTI Assessment Waiver
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- Practical Nursing Graduation
- Virtual SkillsUSA District Competition
- Summer Cosmetology
- Antigen Testing
- Presidential Scholar
- Co-op Training Supervisor
- 2021 -2022 Operating Budget

### Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting  
Seminar Room 8 PM

March 10, 2021  
April 14, 2021  
May 12, 2021  
June 16, 2021

*Get the Board Brief by email  
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*Visit our website  
[www.eastech.org](http://www.eastech.org)*

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### February Student of the Month

William Klanderman, a Lower Moreland High School senior, is the February 2021 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) in Willow Grove. William is being recognized for his outstanding work in EASTERN's Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) 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.

When William was in ninth and tenth grades, he had some friends who attended EASTERN. In tenth grade, he visited EASTERN on his high school visit, and chose to visit two programs that were of interest to him: HVAC, and Electrical Technology. He really enjoyed both programs but decided to pursue HVAC.

At EASTERN, William was chosen by his HVAC Instructor, Brian Jacoby, to participate in the SkillsUSA Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Virtual Fall Leadership Conference in November 2020, where he earned the SkillsUSA Framework Certification, and the Statesman Assessment Award. SkillsUSA's Framework Certification is an e-learning module where participants learn about SkillsUSA and how it ensures the development of world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens through the SkillsUSA Framework. The Statesman Assessment Award is presented to members who demonstrate SkillsUSA knowledge and civic awareness, along with an understanding of the SkillsUSA Framework and how to articulate their personal career and technical education (CTE) experience. Through his HVAC program, he has earned several industry-standard certifications such as OSHA-10, and Ladder Safety certifications. At EASTERN's Virtual Awards Night in May 2020, he received the Attendance Award. He plans to begin a paid internship in the HVAC field this Spring.

At Lower Moreland High School, William has been a member of the baseball and golf teams. Outside of school, William also earned the rank of Eagle Scout. As someone who enjoys working with his hands, he decided that his Eagle Scout project would be to volunteer at Churchville Nature Center, where he cleared invasive brush and replanted pine trees. In addition to the cleanup work, he organized the project with Churchville Nature Center and put together a team of volunteers to complete the task. William also works part time at RNK Electric as an Electrician's Assistant, where he learns the electrical trade, assists Electricians, and applies problem-solving skills he acquired from EASTERN's HVAC program into job tasks.

After graduation from Lower Moreland High School and EASTERN, he plans to continue his HVAC education at Penn College of Technology, and ultimately start his own HVAC business.

**School-to-Career Initiatives**

Hayley Granacher, EASTERN’s School-to-Career Coordinator, provided an overview to the Joint Operating Committee including all efforts to provide EASTERN students with paid co-op work experiences, college credits through articulation agreements, summer work opportunities, employer visits and tours, and guest speakers. Ms. Granacher also noted upcoming events such as College/Career Fairs, Employer/Company tours of EASTERN, and Student Tours/Field Trips.

**Articulation Agreement with Orleans Technical College**

Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN) Construction Technology and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning students can benefit from a new partnership with Orleans Technical College. In addition to earning 8.5 potential articulation credits toward Orleans Technical College’s Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating major, and earning 8.5 potential credit toward their Carpentry major, EASTERN students can now take the entrance exam from home. The articulation agreement is a savings of \$534 per credit for students who meet all established admissions criteria, which equals to an overall savings of more than \$4,500 for a six-month program.

**Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program**

EASTERN is proud to announce that all four students who applied for the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program have been selected for an interview in mid-March. Congratulations and best of luck to our semi-finalists:

- Erica Layson, Commercial Art/Abington Senior High School
- Thomas Mustered, Welding Technology/Springfield Township School District
- Kayla Marshall, Business and Technology Professional/Cheltenham High School
- Matthew Wiggins, Culinary Arts/Abington Senior High School

**NOCTI Assessment Waiver**

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN to submit a waiver for students to skip the NOCTI Assessment this year. After the waiver has been submitted EASTERN will provide an update on the acceptance or denial by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Summer Fun**

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and building renovations scheduled for summer 2021, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Summer Fun middle school enrichment program this year. We look forward to resuming Summer Fun in 2022.

**Practical Nursing Graduation**

EASTERN’s Practical Nursing Class #150 graduated on January 28, 2021. Congratulations to all!

**Virtual SkillsUSA District Competition**

EASTERN has 32 students participating in virtual competitions throughout February. States and National Competitions will also be virtual.

**Summer Cosmetology**

EASTERN will be offering senior Cosmetology students 144 hours of instruction over the summer, with an additional 60 hours in August funded by a grant. This will assist our students in their goal of achieving 1,250 hours necessary for obtaining their Cosmetology licensure in Pennsylvania.

**Antigen Testing**

The Joint Operating Committee approved EASTERN to implement weekly COVID-19 testing made possible through the Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

The goals are to keep EASTERN safe and open for in-person instruction through weekly, rapid testing of asymptomatic staff for COVID-19, and to support Practical Nursing Student participation in clinical rotations in local facilities. These tests are voluntary.

**U.S. Career and Technical Presidential Scholar**

Greg Destefano EASTERN Veterinary Science/ Abington Senior High School has been selected by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to be put forth for the U.S. Career and Technical Presidential Scholar program. Greg will be publicly recognized by the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators virtually on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Co-op Training Supervisor Approved**

Training Supervisor, Kate Duffey, from D.E. Duffey & Sons Inc. was approved for HVAC students, Aidan Robinson and Kevin McHale.

**2021 – 2022 Operating Budget**

The certification of the 2021 – 2022 operating budget as adopted by the participating Boards of School Directors was approved.