

August 2021

A report from the August 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

- SkillsUSA National Competition
- New Teacher of the Year
- Enrollment for 2021-2022
- EAC Presentation
- SkillsUSA Fundraisers
- Summer Renovations
- Technical Assistance Program
- Tour with State Representative
- New JOC Member
- Personnel Items

Coming Events

Joint Committee Meeting
Seminar Room 8 PM

September 8, 2021
October 13, 2021
November 10, 2021
December 8, 2021
January 12, 2022
February 9, 2022
March 9, 2022
April 13, 2022
May 11, 2022
June 15, 2022

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SkillsUSA National Competition

EASTERN's 2021 Culinary Arts and Upper Dublin High School graduate, Benjamin Hoffman, and Commercial Art and Abington Senior High School junior, Nicole Klaski, competed in the SkillsUSA National Competition held virtually June 21-24, 2021. The national competition is a showcase of career and technical education students in areas of technical skills and leadership. EASTERN is proud to announce that both EASTERN students placed in the top nine for their competitions, and Nicole Klaski received second place in the nation.

Benjamin Hoffman participated in the Action Skills competition. This contest requires a 5 to 7-minute demonstration of an occupational skill in an area in which a student is training. Contestants use examples, experiments, displays or practical operations to clearly explain their skills using contestant-prepared visual aids.

Nicole Klaski participated in the Customer Service competition. This contest evaluates students' proficiency in providing customer service. The contest involves live, role-playing situations. Contestants demonstrate their ability to perform customer service in both written and oral forms including telephone and computer skills, communications, problem solving, conflict resolution and business etiquette.

New Teacher of the Year

EASTERN is pleased to announce that Networking and Cybersecurity Instructor, Mr. Michael Refsnider, has been named New Teacher of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association for Career and Technical Education. This award recognizes career and technical education teachers with 3-5 years' experience who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers. This honor is given to only one teacher in Pennsylvania each year.

Enrollment for 2021 – 2022

EASTERN's current enrollment is 636, with 39 students still on a wait list. Programs with waitlists include Allied Health, Automotive Technology, Construction Technology, Cosmetology, Electrical Technology, HVAC, Veterinary Science, and Welding Technology.

“We are pleased with our enrollment for the upcoming school year and are excited for the future as our program offerings continue to expand to meet student career goals,” said Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, EASTERN's Executive Director.

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Executive Advisory Committee Presentation

Mr. Gary Bissig, Chairperson of the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) presented the committees activities and accomplishments over the past year. Accomplishments of particular note include the planning and implementation of virtual Fall and Spring OAC Chairpersons Meetings, the enhancement of Occupational Advisory Committee with the addition of new members, the continuation of EAC business, a Career Pathway document created and published in print and online; promotion of the new Robotics and Automated Technology program via targeted online campaign and printed brochure, successful planning and completion of online 10th Grade Career Expo visitations and Open House, the development of pre-recorded program tours, and monitoring the implementation of program changes for seven programs.

SkillsUSA Fundraisers for 2021 – 2022

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following SkillsUSA fundraising activities:

Fundraiser	Start Date	End Date
WAWA Gift Cards	September 9	October 22
Candy Sale	November 22	December 3
Soft Pretzels	January 10	January 10
Krispy Kreme	February 10	February 11
Apparel Sale	February 22	March 18
Hot Dogs	March 10	March 10
Kona Ice	May 12	May 12

EASTERN Summer Renovations

The Joint Operating Committee approved a series of minor change orders for the renovations occurring at EASTERN. Renovations include a reconfigured main office to support ADA accessibility and security, a newly renovated and expanded Automotive program, a new and enlarged nursing suite, and a second classroom for Allied Health.

Technical Assistance Program

The Bureau of Career and Technical Education technical assistance program is designed to support career and technical centers and high schools with approved programs by offering these sites multiple resources at minimal cost. Through this agreement, EASTERN will receive free study guides and pre-tests for the NOCTI Exam. This program will also offer support for EASTERN's Administrative team through professional development activities and materials.

BOARD BRIEF

State Representative Tour

On July 7, 2021 Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski and Dr. Art Levinowitz, welcomed Representative Nancy Guent, Chris Bradley, Rep. Guent's District Office Director, and Alexander Myers, Candidate for Hatboro Council, for a tour of the facility.

Cosmetology/Lower Moreland senior, Camryn Pressman, took some time out of her program to discuss the value of the Summer Cosmetology program, her career goals, and her experiences at EASTERN.

New Joint Operating Committee Member

The Joint Operating Committee (JOC) would like to welcome LouCrecie Garlanger from Upper Moreland School District to the Joint Operating Committee. She attended an orientation with Dr. Plesnarski and Dr. Levinowitz on August 5, 2021.

Personnel Items

- The JOC accepted the appointment of Gerry Rooney, Supervisor of CTE, as Safety and Security Coordinator
- The JOC accepted the retirement of Joni Seth, IT Support Specialist, effective June 30, 2022. She has served this school since August 2006.
- The JOC has accepted the resignation of School Improvement Coordinator, Jeffrey Ceccola, effective August 27, 2021. He has served the school since September 2015.
- The JOC has approved the appointment of Cheryl Steacker, as Culinary Arts Instructional Aide Long-Term Substitute, effective September 1, 2021
- The JOC has approved the appointment of the following Practical Nursing Adjunct Faculty members for the 2021 – 2022 school year: Kathleen Rivera, RN, BSN, CEN; Dana Agovino, RN, M.Ed., BSN, CSN; and Natalie Baine, MSN, PNP, BSN.
- The JOC has approved the appointment of David J. Curran, as Continuing Education Electrical Instructor for the 2021 - 2022 school year.
- The JOC has approved the appointment of Eileen Jacob of Lynn Electronics a new Cooperative Education (Internship) Supervisor.