



BOARD BRIEF

October 2021

A report from the October 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.

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Coming Events

Joint Operating Committee Meeting
Virtual - 8 PM

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

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

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September Student of the Month

Lorraine Praeger, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the September 2021 Student of the Month at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology (EASTERN). Lorraine 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.

Lorraine has been an active member of the Girl Scouts since October 2016, earning the Silver Award, the second highest award attainable in the organization. She has been a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps since 2018, a national youth leadership development organization that promotes interest and skill in naval disciplines and leadership. She has also been a member of the Abington Police Explorers since 2018.

Through the Protective Services program, Lorraine has earned National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) certification. NIMS guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents. She was selected by her instructor as the 2021 – 2022 Officer in Charge/Lieutenant for the afternoon session.

After graduation from Abington Senior High School and EASTERN's Protective Services program, she plans to attend Montgomery County Community College while working as a security guard. She then plans to join the Police Academy and pursue a career as a Naval officer.

October Student of the Month

Nicole (Nikki) Klaski, an Abington Senior High School senior, is the October 2021 Student of the Month at EASTERN. Nikki is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Commercial Art 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. Nikki comes from a long line of EASTERN graduates. by her sister, Kelly, who is a graduate of Commercial Art, she decided to enroll.

At EASTERN, Nikki is an active member of SkillsUSA, EASTERN's student leadership organization. She won the silver medal for Customer Service at the SkillsUSA National Competition in June 2021. At EASTERN's Awards Night in May 2021, Nikki received the Straight A Award. At Abington Senior High School High School, Nikki is a member of the High Honors Society, and active in many organizations, such as the Key Club, which encourages leadership by helping others, the Leo Club, which helps the community and local organizations, and she served as the Captain of Hospitality for Mini-Thon. She also holds a part-time job as Brand Ambassador at American Eagle. Through the Commercial Art program, Nikki has already attained her Adobe InDesign and Adobe Illustrator certifications

After graduating from EASTERN and Abington Senior High School, Nikki plans on attending a four-year college and majoring in Business or Architectural Design.

October 2021

Parent Night – Virtual

On September 20, 2021, EASTERN conducted its annual Parents Night-Virtual. Three hundred and nine (309) individuals attended the event. Fifty percent (50%) of the students were represented by their parent(s)/guardian(s) at this event.

Foundation Fundraisers

The EASTERN Foundation scheduled fundraisers:

- Thursday, October 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Anthony's Cola Fired Pizza in Horsham.
- Monday, November 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. at MOD Pizza in Willow Grove.

Partnership with Pittsburgh Technical College

Business and Technology Professional, Commercial Art, Culinary Arts, Electrical Technology, Networking and Cybersecurity, HVAC, Protective Services, Robotics and Automated Technology, and Welding Technology students can benefit from a new partnership with Pittsburgh Technical College. Students have the potential to earn up to 16 advance credits for the work they completed while at EASTERN if they have successfully completed all admission criteria.

2022 – 2023 Budget

Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, EASTERN's Executive Director, presented the 2022 – 2023 budget, which includes a 2% increase to the participating districts. This small increase will help to create our Exercise Science and Rehabilitation program, and to hire an additional full-time aide to assist in expanding and oversubscribed programs. Our goal is to increase accessibility to first choice programs to our students, and we believe the additional aide is a critical component in reaching that goal.

2021-2022 Capital Planning

The Joint Operating Committee approved a proposed capital plan to renovate the Welding and Protective Services programs. Goals for Welding include increasing capacity of the program to 20 students per session and adding features to improve safety, including a manifold system for gases, larger booths, and better ventilation. Protective Services will be upgraded to an air-conditioned space with other finishing upgrades. Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects will work with EASTERN's staff to develop plans and specifications for bidding and construction administration. This work will begin in April and finish for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Adult Education 2021 Fall Term Snapshot

As of September 30, 2021, there were 85 students enrolled in Continuing Education courses, with 82 students in the Apprentice programs and 103 in the Practical Nursing program.

BOARD BRIEF

PERSONNEL ITEMS:

Business Manager/JOC Board Secretary

Appointed Katie Braun as Business Manager and Joint Operating Committee Secretary effective November 29, 2021.

Accountant/JOC Board Treasurer – Resignation

Accepted the resignation of Accountant/Treasurer, Liam Gallagher, effective October 25, 2021.

JOC Board Treasurer

Appointed Marta Mecray as JOC Treasurer, effective October 26, 2021

School Nurse – Resignation

Accepted the resignation of School Nurse, Christine Ledwith, effective October 8, 2021.

School Nurse Rate

Increased the salary guide for School Nurse Substitutes to the rate of \$120 per day.

Substitute School Nurse - Appointment

Appointed Windy Viernes, BSN, RN as School Nurse substitute effective October 11, 2021.

Automotive Collision Aide – Resignation

Accepted the resignation of Automotive/Collision Aide, Victoria Penecale, effective October 1, 2021.

Student Success Aide – Retirement

Accepted the retirement of Student Success Aide, Cori Sansalone, effective June 30, 2022.

Veterinary Science Interns/Supervisor

Approved Christina Decker - Cheltenham and Isabell McGillis - Abington Senior High School as Veterinary Science Interns and approved Eileen Collins, Elena Hays, Mary McDonnell, Trisha Simmler-Totaro, and Karen McGeehan as supervisors for weekend animal care.

Cooperative Education Training Supervisor

Approved Chris Bors of Faulkner Infinity of Willow Grove as Training Supervisor for EASTERN's Automotive Technology student, Marcos Garcia.

Occupational Advisory Committee new members

Collision Technology

Paul Townes (Body Shop Manager) Penske Truck
Electrical Technology

Phil Candando (Owner) Phil's Electric, LLC
Protective Services

Rich Worthington (Training Coordinator/Deputy
Emergency Manager) Lower Moreland Police Department

Christopher Kuklentz (Detective Lieutenant)
Montgomery County Detective Bureau

Robotics

Rick Bailey (Chief Technical Officer) Axiom Towers

Kim Phung (Sales) Fromm Electric