



# Eastern International College

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## 100% NCLEX PASS RATE: EVERY GRADUATE, EVERY YEAR

We are thrilled to celebrate a landmark achievement for our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. As a new program, the bar was set high from the very beginning, and our graduates have met it every single time.

Every BSN graduate since our very first graduating class in 2024 has passed the NCLEX on the first attempt. One hundred percent. Every student. Every year. For a new program, this is an extraordinary achievement and a testament to what is possible when students and faculty are fully committed to excellence.

These graduates met the demands of a rigorous curriculum head-on and emerged not only as licensed nurses, but as skilled, compassionate healthcare professionals ready to serve their communities. They leaned on their faculty mentors, showed up for one another, and chose excellence every single day.

This is what success looks like from the start and it speaks volumes about the strength of our students, our faculty, and the foundation this program was built upon.

As these graduates step into hospitals, clinics, and communities across the region, they carry with them more than a license. They carry the pride of being part of a program where every single graduate has succeeded from day one.

# DENTAL HYGIENE NEWS



## DENTAL HYGIENE KIDNEY WALK 2026

Dental Hygiene students joined the annual Kidney Walk held at Lincoln Park in Jersey City, NJ, on March 7, 2026. These dedicated future healthcare professionals stepped out of the clinic to highlight the critical link between periodontal health and chronic kidney disease. By participating in the walk, the students engaged with fellow participants to share insights on how maintaining oral hygiene can mitigate systemic inflammation. Their presence underscored a holistic approach to wellness, proving that a healthy smile and healthy kidneys go hand in hand in the journey toward long-term vitality.



## DENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

Eastern International College proudly hosted Give Kids A Smile Day on February 3, 2026, marking a significant initiative centered on delivering comprehensive dental services to children 14 and under who lack insurance or financial resources. Throughout the event, Dental Hygiene students took a proactive role in community wellness, providing both essential oral health education and extensive preventative treatments. By bridging the gap for families without access to traditional care, these students ensured that local youth received the professional dental attention necessary for a healthy future.



## DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS BRING BRIGHT SMILES TO JERSEY CITY HEAD START

On April 2, 2026, Eastern International College Dental Hygiene students visited a Jersey City Head Start school to promote early childhood dental hygiene wellness. The students used engaging, hands-on activities to teach young children the basics of brushing and flossing, making dental care feel approachable and exciting. By sharing these essential habits, the EIC team helped provide local families with the tools for better health while gaining valuable experience as community health leaders.

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY NEWS

## A LOOK INTO DR. MUBASHIR MIRZA'S DMS OB LAB



At Eastern International College, the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) labs support students in applying classroom knowledge to hands-on imaging practice. Under the guidance of Dr. Mubashir Mirza, students train in a structured environment that reflects key elements of diagnostic medical sonography.

The labs are equipped with industry-standard ultrasound machines, training mannequins, including portable units used to simulate bedside imaging scenarios commonly encountered in clinical settings.



With small class sizes, students complete practical training in different sonography modalities, such as abdominal, vascular, OB/GYN, and adult echocardiography. As they progress toward clinical externships, students build foundational competencies and become more familiar with standard imaging procedures. The DMS labs at Eastern International College support preparation for clinical training and entry-level roles in diagnostic medical imaging.

## EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE: SONOGRAPHY STUDENTS SHINE AT PRIME HEART

On March 20, 2026, Dr. Kavitha Govindasamy, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Melina Pareja, DMS Externship Coordinator at Eastern International College (EIC), visited Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) students at their clinical externship sites, including Prime Heart in Maplewood, New Jersey. Prime Heart has maintained a longstanding partnership with EIC and continues to support hands-on clinical training for sonography students. Over the years, the site has also employed several EIC sonography graduates, reflecting its continued collaboration with the College and commitment to workforce development.

It was rewarding to observe our students' growth and professionalism in a real-world setting. Their ability to confidently apply clinical skills reinforces the strength of EIC's training. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and the integrity with which they represent our college. A sincere thank you to the team at Prime Heart for their continued mentorship and support in shaping the next generation of skilled sonographers.



# NURSING NEWS



## NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

On January 16, 2026, Eastern International College honored its latest nursing cohort with a traditional Nursing Pinning Ceremony, celebrating their transition from rigorous academic study to professional practice.

This milestone event, attended by family, friends, and faculty, recognized the immense perseverance required to complete such a demanding program. The ceremony serves as a powerful rite of passage, symbolizing each graduate's lifelong pledge to clinical excellence and compassionate patient advocacy.

As these new nurses embark on their careers, the pins they now wear represent both their hard-earned success and their unwavering commitment to the high standards of the healthcare community. EIC extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2026 as they begin their journey of service.



## NURSING ATI NCLEX REVIEW

On April 9, 2026, our ADN nursing students reached the heart of their journey during the ATI NCLEX Live Review. This intensive, three-day experience requires full focus and dedication from every participant as they prepare for the next chapter of their careers.

Throughout the sessions, students revisited every major concept introduced since their first day in the program. This process is essential for strengthening clinical understanding and sharpening the critical thinking skills required to make high-stakes decisions under pressure.

The primary objective of this rigorous training is straightforward: to ensure first-attempt NCLEX success. We are incredibly proud of the stamina and passion these students have displayed during this marathon review. As they prepare to transition from dedicated learners to licensed professionals, this experience ensures they are ready to provide exceptional care to our community.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:



## MARISSA GARAFOLA, DH '17

Returning to Eastern International College as an alumni and practicing dental hygienist was a full-circle moment I truly appreciated. EIC played a significant role in shaping my foundation in dental hygiene, so being invited back to participate in the recent career fair was both meaningful and rewarding.

Seeing students so close to the finish line reminded me of exactly how that moment feels; equal parts nervous and excited, ready to take on everything the field has to offer. It was a great opportunity to share real-world insight, offer guidance, and support them as they begin their careers. The students were engaged, motivated, and eager to learn more about the different paths available to them within the profession.

Since graduating, I've continued working chairside as a Registered Dental Hygienist and also founded M&G Staffing Co., a dental staffing agency based out of New Jersey. Being able to return not only as a clinician but also as a business owner added another layer to the experience, allowing me to provide students with both clinical and career-focused perspective.

I'm grateful to EIC for the opportunity to come back and connect, and I look forward to continuing to support future graduates as they transition into the field.

# FACULTY NEWS:

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARSHIP: DR. HANY ZAKY AT THE 2026 INNOVATIVE TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE



Eastern International College congratulates Dr. Hany Zaky on his distinguished contribution as a presenter at the 2026 Innovative Teaching & Learning Conference: Teaching and Learning with Joy - Purpose, Connection, and Possibility, organized by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and held virtually on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Dr. Zaky delivered a compelling concurrent session (50 minutes) titled Beyond Box-Checking: Transforming Assessment into a Catalyst for Learning, in which he introduced the Assessment Integration Model (AIM), a research-based framework that examines why assessment so often falls short of its potential. Drawing on analysis from diverse institutional contexts, he explored how seven key factors can enable a meaningful shift, moving assessment from a compliance-driven activity into a powerful tool for pedagogical enhancement. Attendees left with practical, evidence-informed strategies to make assessment a purposeful and integral part of the teaching and learning process.

Dr. Zaky's participation in this conference is a testament to Eastern International College's unwavering commitment to scholarly engagement, innovative pedagogy, and the pursuit of equitable, meaningful education. His work continues to advance the field and reflects the caliber of faculty dedicated to excellence at our institution.

Conference Link

<https://teaching.utk.edu/concurrent-sessions-ii/>

## CELEBRATING DR. SUZANNE MULLINGS' 2026 ACHIEVEMENTS



Eastern International College is thrilled to honor and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our very own Dr. Suzanne Mullings. Known for her profound dedication to healthcare, education, and community advocacy, Dr. Mullings exemplifies the spirit of selfless service. It is with great pride that we recognize her recent achievements, which showcase her efforts to uplift others and advance the nursing profession.

Dr. Suzanne Mullings was selected as a 2026 Bergen County Black History Month Celebration Community Service Award Recipient. This distinguished recognition celebrates those whose leadership, service, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community.

She was also awarded the Institute for Nursing Diva & Don Award. This recognition reflects the extraordinary impact she has made on the nursing profession, patients, and the communities she serves.

As a visionary leader and educator, Dr. Mullings continues to inspire both her peers and the next generation of healthcare professionals through her unwavering commitment to advocacy and clinical excellence.

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## BUILDING PROFESSIONAL BRIDGES: SPRING 2026 CAREER FAIR



On April 15, 2026, Eastern International College hosted its highly anticipated Spring Semester Career Fair, welcoming five prominent local employers to our campus. These semi-annual events serve as a vital cornerstone of our commitment to student success, facilitating direct connections between our aspiring healthcare professionals and industry leaders.

We were honored to host a diverse group of organizations this semester, including Great Expressions Dental Centers, Dental 365, and Lincoln Park Healthcare Campus. We were particularly excited to welcome Radnet and M&G Staffing Co. as the newest additions to our growing network of employer partners. A highlight of the event was the presence of two distinguished alumni: Jianna Sawford (BSDH Class of 2023) representing Great Expressions and Marissa Garafola (AAS DH Class of 2017) representing M&G Staffing, demonstrating the enduring strength and professional legacy of the EIC community.

The fair provided students with a unique platform to engage with recruiters within their specific fields of study. Beyond networking, attendees gained invaluable first-hand insight into current job market trends and the evolving expectations of the healthcare sector. By fostering these meaningful dialogues, EIC continues to ensure our graduates are not only clinically proficient but also strategically positioned to launch rewarding careers immediately upon graduation.

## SMILE BRANDS' COFFEE HOUR FOR CARDIOVASCULAR AWARENESS MONTH



In honor of Cardiovascular Awareness Month, Eastern International College hosted an engaging Coffee Talk event with Smile Brands DSO on February 12, 2026. Gathering in the student lounge, representatives from Smile Brands met with students from the Dental Hygiene, Nursing, and Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) programs to discuss the vital connection between oral hygiene and heart health.

Students explored how systemic inflammation and periodontal disease can impact cardiovascular wellness, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary care. The event offered a relaxed way for students to learn how dental health and heart health are connected, preparing them to provide better, more complete care to their future patients.



# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: ABK INDUCTION CEREMONY 2026



Eastern International College proudly celebrated the achievements of its top scholars during the Alpha Beta Kappa (ABK) National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on April 10, 2026. Held in the Lecture Hall, the event served as a formal recognition of the hard work, integrity, leadership, and academic excellence displayed by our newest inductees. Thirteen students were welcomed into the society.

The Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society recognizes academic achievement, leadership, integrity, and community service among students in career-focused education programs. We extend our congratulations to these 13 individuals for their dedication to their studies, their service to the community, and their commitment to the healthcare profession.



## *The Mark of Distinction*

### **BENEFITS OF THE ABK HONOR SOCIETY**

Alpha Beta Kappa is recognized as a premier national honor society serving private postsecondary institutions, colleges, and universities across the United States.

Established to acknowledge institutions that uphold high academic and professional standards, the Society promotes excellence in the education and training of students in fields essential to today's workforce. Its purpose is to recognize and encourage outstanding student achievement, character, and leadership. Membership in Alpha Beta Kappa provides national recognition and lifelong affiliation, allowing students to include the honor on their future resumes.

Members benefit from lifetime membership with no annual dues, as well as access to letters of reference upon request. Each inductee receives a personalized membership certificate featuring their academic profile, institution, and chapter, distinguished by the Alpha Beta Kappa Gold Seal of Distinction. Members are also awarded the ABK Gold Key, accompanied by a congratulatory letter and an overview of the Society, symbolizing their academic excellence and commitment to professional growth.

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## SUMMER SEMESTER 2026

- **May 7, 2026**  
Orientation for New Students
- **May 8, 2026**  
Faculty Orientation
- **May 11, 2026**  
Summer Semester Begins
- **May 22, 2026**  
Last Day for Add/Drop
- **May 25, 2026**  
Memorial Day - College Closed
- **June 19, 2026**  
Juneteenth - College Closed
- **July 3, 2026**  
Independent Day - College Closed
- **July 13, 2026**  
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
- **August 21, 2026**  
Last Day of the Summer Semester
- **August 28, 2026**  
All Final Summer Semester Grades Due to Registrar