

Jenny Novak, CEM

Director, Systemwide Emergency Management & Continuity, California State University

Speaker Bio:

Jenny Novak is an award winning, Certified Emergency Manager, with over fifteen years of experience. Her specialties include disaster recovery, exercise development and higher education emergency management. In 2020, Jenny was selected as the first systemwide Director of Emergency Management and Continuity for the California State University system. Previously, she worked in response for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and at the local level.

Jenny's academic background is in Hazards Geography. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from Humboldt State University in 2007. Jenny went on to pursue graduate level disaster research at the University of Southern California, earning a Master of Arts Degree in Geography in 2012. She is also a 2022 graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense & Security's Executive Leaders Program.

Jenny currently serves as Vice President of the California Emergency Services Association Southern Chapter. In 2016, Jenny was honored at the White House for her innovation in preparedness training development for higher education. She loves living in Long Beach, CA with her husband and two young daughters.

Presentation Title:

Diamonds in the Rough: Seeking Quality Emergency Management Candidates in a Challenging Job Market

When competition is stiff, and your candidates bring little to no Emergency Management experience, what strategies can you use to find the diamonds in the rough?