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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2021 IAEM-USA Student Chapter of the Year Award

Oct. 13, 2021 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winner of the IAEM-USA 2021 Student Chapter of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 18, 2021, at the 69th IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the 2021 IAEM-USA Student Chapter of the Year is the IAEM-USA Student Chapter at the University of Delaware.

In 2020, the University of Delaware (UD) Chapter made significant progress on increasing membership both within the chapter and within the national organization. To increase undergraduate membership, a new executive board position was created to provide undergraduate representation in decision-making to ensure undergraduates are welcomed in the chapter. This creation, in addition to expanding recruiting, led to quadrupling undergraduate membership.

Additionally, the chapter expanded outreach to graduate students and doubled the total number of members. Many of these new members were from outside the traditional emergency management fields and were able to learn about the larger IAEM organization through the chapter. Several members also indicated they had joined the National IAEM membership because of the activity they had seen in the local chapter; something they would not have done otherwise. National membership was also encouraged to all members along with explaining the many benefits of IAEM membership.

National IAEM events were regularly advertised to UD members, and many participated in webinars, conferences, and other virtual activities. Additionally, the chapter supported ongoing student professional development by financially sponsoring students to attend virtual conferences. With university financial constraints, the chapter offered funding that is typically available through different sources. The virtual environment allowed an opportunity for students to network with professionals, present their own research, and learn more about the emergency management field. Finally, IAEM at UD provided various virtual social opportunities to ensure students felt connected, even while apart.

The **Student Chapter of the Year Award** recognizes an IAEM-registered student chapter which has made significant contributions in promoting IAEM, the Student Council, and the field of emergency management through public awareness, increasing membership, showing leadership and initiative in education, and increasing the professionalism of emergency and disaster management.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.

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