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## News Release

### IAEM-USA Announces the 2023 Career Excellence Award

**Oct. 19, 2023 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected Leslie Luke for the IAEM-USA 2023 Career Excellence Award. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8 at the 71<sup>st</sup> IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Long Beach, California.

#### **Leslie Luke Winner of the IAEM-USA Career Excellence Award**

Leslie's remarkable contributions to emergency management and his dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) have left a lasting impact on both his local community and the broader field of emergency management. Here are some key highlights of his achievements and initiatives.

- **Advocacy for DEI:** Leslie's advocacy for DEI has had a tangible impact in his jurisdiction of Los Angeles County and nationally. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership and diplomacy skills in this regard.
- **Mentorship and Internship Programs:** Leslie has played a crucial role in creating internship programs that foster mentorship in emergency management. These programs help support the next generation of emergency management professionals.
- **Operation Allies Welcome:** Leslie led the operational area response to Operation Allies Welcome, which involved coordinating resources for Afghan refugees resettled in Los Angeles County. His efforts helped address housing, healthcare, employment, education, and legal representation gaps, ensuring a smoother transition for refugees.
- **Integrated Communications:** Leslie is one of the leads for the Los Angeles Regional Integrated Communications System (LARICS) Development Taskforce. This initiative aims to improve communication among regional public safety agencies, enhancing response capabilities.
- **Leadership and Commitment:** Throughout his career in public service, Leslie has consistently demonstrated his commitment to protecting lives and property from disasters. His leadership, competence, and generosity have made a significant difference in the field of emergency management.

Leslie's efforts have not only improved emergency management practices but have also had a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals, including refugees and vulnerable populations. His dedication to DEI and outstanding emergency management contributions make him an asset to his community and the profession.

**The IAEM-USA Career Excellence Award** is awarded to an emergency management practitioner at any level (federal, state, tribal, local, academic, military, and private) as an employee, contractor, academic instructor or researcher, or volunteer who has made significant contributions throughout their career to promote and improve the emergency management profession in the United States.

*IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 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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