Candidate Statement: David Muse, MPA, CEM, MEP

Candidate for IAEM 2nd Vice President

It is with deep appreciation for our profession and our commitment to our shared future that I request your vote for IAEM 2nd Vice President.

Over the past 15 years, I've served across various sectors of emergency management, including higher education, healthcare, the private sector, government, and nonprofit organizations. I've had the privilege of managing large-scale operations and leading quiet moments of community recovery. I've built teams, supported colleagues, and strengthened systems because that's what emergency managers do.

Today, I serve as the Assistant Director of Emergency Management at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. My previous roles with Mass General Brigham, Mass Emergency Management Agency, State Street, and the American Red Cross have allowed me to lead all phases of emergency management at every level, from the EOC to the boardroom.

As a long-time IAEM volunteer, I have proudly served in a leadership role for the past four years, two of which I served as the Region 1 Vice President and am now Region 1 President. These roles have given me the honor of representing New England's dedicated professionals and have afforded me a seat on the IAEM-USA Board of Directors for the past two years. I've worked alongside national leadership to improve member value, strengthen our regions, and support strategic priorities for our organization.

My platform is grounded in three pillars, shaped by experience and focused on action:

1. Strengthen IAEM as an Organization

IAEM's strength lies in its members, and we owe it to each other to build a stronger, more efficient, and more inclusive organization. As a leader who has managed both paid and volunteer teams, I understand the importance of transparent systems, responsive leadership, and accessible opportunities. Learn more about my thoughts in this LinkedIn Article titled *A Stronger IAEM: Strengthening Our Organization*.

With your help, we will:

- Promote operational efficiency and clarity in IAEM's governance and processes.
- Enhance transparency around decision-making, finances, and strategic goals.
- Invest in tools and practices that enable members to engage meaningfully at regional, national, and international levels.

- Champion the development of IAEM's next strategic plan and help guide our direction beyond 2026.

2. Advance Professional Development & Credentialing

Professional development is not one-size-fits-all. I will advocate for flexible and equitable growth opportunities, from student pathways to advanced credentialing.

Together we will:

- Advocate for modernization of the CEM®/AEM® programs and support the exploration of advanced credentialing (reference my LinkedIn Article titled *It's Time to Specialize: Reimagining the CEM for Today's Diverse Emergency Managers*), furthering our profession and offering mid and senior-level emergency managers the opportunity to advance their credentials from within our organization.
- Build partnerships with academic and training institutions to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice.

3. Redefine Emergency Management as an Organizational Imperative

Emergency management is a strategic function predicated on readiness, problem solving, networking, continuity, and leadership. It's time our profession is seen and treated that way.

As an organization, we will:

- Help elevate EM visibility in emerging industries.
- Advocate for EM professionals to have a seat at the leadership table, before, during, and after a crisis.
- Continue to build relationships and work with new groups and organizations to strengthen partnerships and build EM's reputation.
- Support those serving in collateral EM roles with tools, training, and community.

IAEM is at a pivotal moment. We need fresh ideas, proven leadership, and someone with firsthand experience of how the USA Board operates. I offer these skills and would be honored to serve as your next 2nd Vice President.

Let's move IAEM forward, together!

-Dave

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