

Candidate Statement

Kentucky State Representative – IAEM Region 4

Hello! My name is Lucas Barnes and I would like to serve as the Kentucky State Representative for IAEM Region 4.

In October 2012, I was hired to work part-time for the Estill County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) including the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). This was a great opportunity to serve my community while completing a B.S. in Criminal Justice and Certificate in Emergency Management at Eastern Kentucky University. In August 2015, I was promoted to a full-time position with the agency and served as Emergency Planner. In this role, I served on the exercise planning team for the annual full-scale CSEPP exercise and became a Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP). I also had the opportunity to learn about federal grants management and completed several tracks of the Grants Management Certificate Program (GMCP) offered by Management Concepts. In July 2018, I was promoted to Deputy Director. As CSEPP funding goes away, I plan to continue serving this agency on a part-time basis.

In August 2024, I accepted a position at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) as the Lecturer & Co-op/Internship Coordinator for the Homeland Security Program. The program name recently changed to Homeland Security & Emergency Management. In this role, I teach undergraduate emergency management courses and work with students to pursue internship opportunities. This position allows me to give back to my alma mater and guide the next generation of homeland security and emergency management professionals.

I'm a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through IAEM, Certified Kentucky Emergency Management (CKEM) through the Kentucky Emergency Management Association (KEMA), and an Emergency Number Professional (ENP) through the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). I earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Jacksonville State University (JSU) with a concentration in emergency management. I'm currently enrolled in the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies program at EKU. I'm also an Eagle Scout and serve as Committee Chair for Troop 144 in Irvine, KY.

If elected, I will be YOUR voice to IAEM Region 4. Kentucky is blessed with top-notch emergency managers who selflessly serve their home communities, institutions, and employers on a daily basis. These dedicated professionals never hesitate to answer the call when a colleague or community needs assistance. That is what I will do in this role. I'm available to hear your concerns and challenges. The Kentucky Sheriffs' Association motto is "No Sheriff Stands Alone". For IAEM Region 4, I would remove "Sheriff" and insert "Emergency Manager". I will maintain contact with the Kentucky Emergency

Management Association (KEMA) and other emergency management related associations across the Commonwealth. This connection will also extend to all IAEM members across the state. If we all work together, we can advance the emergency management profession and help our colleagues. I'm available to answer any questions you may have. My personal email address is lucasbarnes20@gmail.com and phone number is 606-975-5449.