

IAEM Candidate Statement

My name is Nicole Marks, and I am running for the IAEM Region 2 Vice President position. I am interested in staying in this position to support the region and continue to support and maintain our regional events. As a Region, it is vital to create opportunities for our members and learn about all emergency management roles active in our area. As Vice President, I want to ensure we have continuity in our region with an awareness of the past while still looking to innovate and adapt as we encounter changes, challenges, and obstacles, while celebrating our achievements and mentoring the next generation of professional emergency managers.

I aspire to increase our membership and strive for a larger representation throughout our region, especially among the student and emerging professional members. I will continue to work to connect our members through enhanced communications, ensure events are accessible and available for our members and the emergency management community, and serve the needs of our Region as needed. I am excited to look at new ways to engage and share resources with our members as we navigate the changing times we are constantly confronted with, while holding space for all to feel welcome and safe to share, speak, or be involved.

After earning my CEM in 2015, I served as a featured mentor for members embarking on or working through the certification process. Throughout the years of mentoring and recertifying, I have gained a unique perspective on our members' experiences and actively work with applicants to avoid common issues. The certification is an essential aspect of our organization and allows us to distinguish our expertise, knowledge, and skills. Along with my extensive professional experiences, I am a constant advocate for higher education and emergency management students. I have recently returned to school to pursue a PhD in Anthropology focused on disasters, climate, and resiliency.

I am happy to serve our members by attending and advocating for them during meetings, and continue to organize ways for us to meet and create partnerships and networks that bring together our four unique geographical locations. I will continue to help with outreach at conferences and other emergency management events and will continue to lead the engagement and planning efforts for the Region 2 Conference.