

## **Kinsley Trout**

Student,

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Competitive Division - Undergraduate Student

### **Student Chapter Engagement Initiatives**

IAEM Student Chapters serve as vital bridges between academic theory and professional practice in emergency management. To foster meaningful participation and chapter success, structured guidance and experiential learning opportunities have proven essential. As Chapter Officers, we continuously implement engagement strategies including practical emergency management activities, site visits to operations facilities throughout New England, and participation in regional exercises. These initiatives have transformed our chapter into an experience-based learning community with measurably increased participation rates. By systematically assessing member capabilities and development needs, we design targeted programming that optimizes success. Our social media presence enables virtual networking with the emergency management community, increasing visibility with potential employers. Through strategic relationships with industry professionals, peer institutions, and academic partners, we are working to enhance chapter engagement while preparing members for successful careers. We measure effectiveness through attendance tracking, polls, and participation metrics. Our approach demonstrates that student-led organizations can create a significant impact on the direction of the chapter. The success of our engagement model

suggests potential applications for other IAEM Student Chapter Organizations seeking to increase their member participation.

**Presentation Theme:** Strategic student-led engagement and experiential learning through professional networking, are key drivers of success and professional development in IAEM Student Chapters. Through site visits, guest speakers, and community engagement, the student chapter has strengthened its reputation and built greater credibility within the field.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** Kinsley Trout, Katherine Dowling, Eli Jache, Logan Smith, Christopher Cecil.