

# **Logan Smith**

Student,

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

## **Competitive Division - Undergraduate Student**

### Developing Hands-on Industry Knowledge: A Student Internship at an EMA

This poster highlights the student experience during a winter internship with New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), emphasizing the value of immersive, hands-on learning in emergency management education. The internship provided direct involvement in key agency functions, including disaster mitigation, recovery operations, and federal grant administration (e.g., HMGP and BRIC). The student contributed to grant evaluations and interagency meetings, gaining insight into decision-making processes that support community resilience and coordination.

Field experiences with the New Hampshire Department of Safety, such as a conservation officer ride-along and a visit to the NH Fire Academy, added valuable context for understanding operational preparedness and interdepartmental collaboration. This structured, mentor-supported internship offered a deeper level of engagement than traditional observational roles, promoting stronger skill development and professional growth. The poster concludes with recommendations to improve experiential learning through standardized frameworks, active mentorship, and enhanced collaboration between academic programs and practitioners.

**Presentation Theme:** Enhancing Emergency Management Education Through Immersive, Experiential Learning: A Case Study of a Student Internship with New Hampshire HSEM.

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