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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces Israel Estrada as the 2018 IAEM-USA Student of the Year

Oct. 17, 2018 (Falls Church, Va.) - The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winners of the IAEM-USA 2018 student awards. The award winners will be recognized at the IAEM 66th Annual Conference & EMEX, Oct. 19-24, 2018, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the **2018 IAEM-USA Student of the Year Award** is **Israel Estrada**, an IAEM student member attending University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut. During the past year, Mr. Estrada worked to establish a student council at the University of New Haven within its master's degree program in emergency management. After conceptualizing the idea, he gathered support from professors to allow him to advertise the student council and convinced the director of the program to be the student advisor. He recruited his classmates to join by speaking at classes, sending out emails, and submitting newsletter articles. Also, he led the charge to establish the first and second election to appoint officers, served as the council's first president, held council meetings, and worked on various initiatives to get students involved.

Mr. Estrada set up administrative processes, established a system to pay dues, and encouraged all students to join IAEM as student members. He also promoted student attendance at the IAEM-USA Region 1 Conference and the IAEM Annual Conference, and represented the university program at both events. The University of New Haven Student Council is currently working toward establishing an active IAEM Student Chapter. Estrada continues to be heavily involved in the second year of the New Haven council. He provides leadership to the group as they work through the unique challenges of a two-year master's program and high student turnover.

The IAEM-USA Student of the Year Award recognizes a Student member of IAEM who has made significant contributions to the field of emergency and disaster management. This can be done through volunteer work, promotion of the field, and contribution in their community. High academic achievement is also required (both formal and/or continuing education). The recipient must be enrolled in a program of studies in the field of emergency management, homeland security, or related academic field offered by an accredited institution of higher learning. Learn about the IAEM Awards Competition at www.iaem.com/Awards.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 4,600 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides: access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.

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