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## NEWS RELEASE

### **IAEM-USA Announces Winners of the 2014 IAEM-USA Student Region Awards Competition**

**July 11, 2014 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee and the IAEM-USA Student Region has announced the following award winners in the 2014 IAEM-USA Student Region Awards Competition. The awards will be presented at the IAEM 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference & EMEX 2014, Nov. 14-19, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas.

IAEM-USA is pleased to announce the following winners:

- **IAEM-USA Student of the Year: George Navarini**, who is recognized as IAEM-USA Student of the Year, is nearing completion of the academic credentials for a master of arts in emergency disaster management at American Military University/American Public University System, while concurrently working on a master's certificate in terrorism studies. He is a member of the APUS University Ambassadors Program, the IAEM Student Chapter at APUS, and the Sabre and Scroll Honor Society. He has served as an emergency management instructor across the State of Florida as well as internationally, and attained Master Instructor status through the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and the Florida Department of Emergency Management. Mr. Navarini translated the DHS/FEMA G-100, -200, and -300 courses into Spanish and successfully delivered the same in Panama, Colombia and the Caribbean. He received the U.S. Coast Guard Achievement Medal for this project. He serves as an adjunct instructor at the NETC, Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and is one of less than 30 instructors nationwide qualified to teach all 16 courses of the NIMS-ICS All-Hazards Position-Specific Program.
- **IAEM-USA Student Ally of the Year: James W. Keck**, who is recognized as IAEM-USA Student Ally of the Year, for more than six years has been a leader and mentor for students studying homeland security and emergency management at the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). In addition to his experience as the Deputy Agency Head at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and his past position as the Executive Director of the Virginia Emergency Management Association, Mr. Keck has provided VCU students with professional direction, leadership, guidance, and unprecedented excellence in education as a homeland security and emergency management professor. He tirelessly uses his 15 years of emergency management experience and influence to continue to promote and educate the next generation of our nation's emergency management professionals.
- **IAEM-USA Student Chapter of the Year: Millersville University Student Chapter** was recognized for outstanding performance as an IAEM-USA Student Chapter. Membership in the chapter has been opened to all students, rather than only EM students. As a result, more students are learning about and becoming interested in the EM field, including a diverse mix of students from earth science, political science, occupational safety, meteorology, education, and sociology. This has created a chapter that includes an extremely well-rounded collective group of individuals. Additionally, the chapter hosts a series of speakers at each meeting to speak about an interesting aspect of emergency management and what they have learned about it from their experiences. These meetings have been held virtually in years past to accommodate the largest number of individuals, catering specifically to our master's degree students. However, to attract an even larger audience and allow more undergraduates to participate, this year the chapter meetings will be moved to Google Hangouts, which will allow anyone and everyone with the link to seamlessly engage in these meetings on a variety of mobile and stationary computing platforms.

- **IAEM-USA Student Chapter Advisor of the Year: Rob McDaniel** is recognized for his work as Student Advisor of the Florida State University Student Chapter. Under his mentorship, the chapter has grown from six to more than 40 members. With the supervision and support of Mr. McDaniel, chapter members spent a majority of the fall semester revamping and building the chapter organization from the ground up. The chapter has received recognition from entities of every level in and around the state of Florida. A seasoned professor in the emergency management program, Mr. McDaniel has encouraged all students in his classes to join FSU IAEM to supplement course information. He helped the chapter to spearhead National Emergency Preparedness Week activities in September, in order to inform students about preparedness, protective actions, and emergency alert systems. Mr. McDaniel epitomizes the characteristics of a successful and admirable advisor by giving IAEM student chapter members the resources and contacts necessary to explore new ideas and opportunities, while at the same time placing responsibility on his students so they can learn and grow. He presented members with a launching pad filled with ideas and possibilities, and the results of their efforts in return have been substantial.

Learn more about the IAEM Council and Global Awards Competitions at [www.iaem.com/Awards](http://www.iaem.com/Awards), where information about all IAEM awards is posted.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has more than 6,000 members in 58 countries, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. 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. Visit [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com) for details.

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