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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2024 Emergency Management Education and Training Program of the Year

Oct. 22, 2024 (Falls Church, Va.) – The Awards & Recognition Committee of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) has selected Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe and its Resilience Training Initiative as the IAEM-USA 2024 Emergency Management Education and Training Program of the Year. The award will be presented at the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 20 at the 72nd IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe and It's Resilience Training Initiative 2024 Emergency Management Education and Training Program of the Year Recipient

The Blue Lake Rancheria is home to a sovereign native Tribe in a rural/remote/wilderness region of far northern California. The Tribe's Office of Emergency Services established and maintains the Resiliency Training and Innovation Center (RTIC) to address gaps identified in the quality, cost, availability, and relevance of emergency management and community preparedness training in its home region and other areas of the West. While it addresses the needs of underserved Native populations, the RTIC's offerings are made available to all interested students.

The program emphasizes collaboration among jurisdictions, both tribal and otherwise. It has come to be recognized as a valuable resource for emergency management training and exercises far beyond its region. In addition to the RTIC's many live courses, its expertise has been displayed nationally in virtual tribal emergency management training.

Target student populations include current and aspiring professionals and volunteers in comprehensive emergency management, homeland security, and emergency preparedness, as well as public safety personnel wishing to expand their competencies and skills in large, complex emergencies. Members of rural and remote communities, both tribal and non-tribal, who wish to understand local and regional hazards, threats, risks, response resources, and personal preparedness actions are also served.

The RTIC has been held up as a model for other rural, remote, and indigenous communities. The Tribe relishes this role and has been transparent and generous in sharing its philosophy, methods, results, lessons, and other essential information with those who aspire to develop similar programs. These efforts are never considered competition and are always welcomed.

The IAEM-USA Emergency Management Education and Training Program of the Year Award

recognizes a college, university, or federal, state, local, tribal, military training agency, a recognized private agency/organization, or non-government organization (NGO) that offers and has students enrolled in and who complete emergency management courses in mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and/or planning.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 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.