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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julie Murphy completes FEMA Master Public Information Officer Program

September 23, 2019 – Completing a year-long professional development program, Flagler County Public Information Officer Julie Murphy joins fewer than 70 others across the United States recognized as Master Public Information Officer (MPIO).

Established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2017, the MPIO program is a three-course series to prepare senior level public information officers for an expanded role in delivering public information and warning using a strategic, whole community approach. It is the Department of Homeland Security's highest level of training and credentialing for public information professionals.

"The Master PIO Course is the pinnacle of our training for emergency public information professionals," said FEMA Emergency Management Institute Deputy Superintendent Michael J. Sharon. "It solidifies the skills they learned in our Basic and Advanced PIO courses to build seasoned communicators who are ready in times of crisis."

The program reinforces the qualities needed to lead whole community public information and external affairs programs. It provides relevant management theories and concepts, and uses case studies to enhance public information communications skill sets.

"You are helping us as Emergency Management and elected officials to bring a sense of order and calm by sharing that very, very valuable commodity ... information," Sharon said in his keynote address to graduates on September 19. "It's something you can't replace, and something everyone wants desperately."

Murphy worked within a collaborative environment on projects with an established network of peers. Their work contributes to the body of knowledge for emergency management through evaluation of leadership, group dynamics and functional best practices of joint information centers (JICs) and by conducting peer-reviewed research resulting in individual papers published by the National Emergency Training Center Library at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

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