

Curtis Brown, Co-founder, Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM)

Curtis Brown is co-founder of the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM) a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to increasing diversity in the field of emergency management, promoting the elimination of systemic biases, and integrating the application of equitable practices to improve disaster outcomes for vulnerable communities. Last month, Governor Ralph Northam appointed Curtis as State Coordinator of Emergency Management at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). He is the first African-American to assume this position. He most recently served as Chief Deputy State Coordinator at the agency. Previously, Curtis served as Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Regional Emergency Management Administrator for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and professional staff on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security.

Curtis received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Radford University, Master of Public Administration from Virginia Tech, and Master of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a graduate of FEMA's Emergency Management Executive Academy and Executive Leaders Program through the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Curtis is recognized as a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Association of Emergency Managers. He serves as an Adjunct Instructor for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management at VCU's Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and on the Equitable Climate Resilience Advisory Panel for the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS) Equitable Climate Resilience for US Local Governments.