

**Liberty Valley ACP Chapter Meeting Review**  
**Thursday, February 11, 2016**  
**Immaculata University**  
**Immaculata, PA**

**Immaculata University, Emergency Planning & Management, Bachelor of Science Degree**

George Schwartz, Chair of the Professional Studies Program at Immaculata University provided an overview of the Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Planning & Management offered by the school.

Immaculata University's Emergency Planning and Management bachelor's degree-completion program offers the only major in EPM in this region and is recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Designed primarily for the working adult, the accelerated delivery format allows students to design customized schedules that involve both classroom and online courses. Courses are taught in a blended format and are completed in seven- or eight-week terms.

For more information, visit: <http://www.immaculata.edu/academics/emergency-planning-management>

**The Emergency Management Team**

The Chapter was delighted to have Major General (Ret.) Robert French speak to the group regarding the Emergency Management Team structure within Pennsylvania. Major General French was the former Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and served in the PA Army National Guard from 1972-2009. His first question to the group was "Are you ready?" He encouraged everyone to have a Family Disaster Plan as individual planning is critical. As professionals, many ACP members are responsible for their company's Disaster Plans, but preparing your family for a Disaster is just as important.

Major General French outlined the various levels of agencies and groups within the state that provide support in a crisis – State, County, and Regional. All support begins at the Local level with elected officials and emergency management coordinators, utilizing resources such as Fire, Police and EMS. County support also includes the County Commissioner and a County emergency management coordinator. At the State level, the Governor and the PEMA Director work with State Agencies during the emergency. Nine Regional Task Forces have also been established throughout the state to assist in planning, mitigation response and recovery services during disasters.

**Emergency Management in Higher Education**

Dennis Dougherty, Director of the Department of Safety and Protection at Immaculata University, provided an overview of the emergency management and safety program at the University. Dennis manages the daily operations of campus safety and directs security at large scale campus events. He is also responsible for the institution's emergency management and planning efforts. Dennis served with the Pennsylvania State Police for twenty six years and was also employed by the Southeastern PA Regional Task Force prior to his current role.

Campuses, like Immaculata University, that have an open campus and "small town" feel have very specific requirements to consider when handling emergency management. Under the Clery Act, universities are obligated to produce an annual security report and annual fire safety report, which details statistics of events on campus. Timely warnings of campus situations, such as emergencies or criminal activities are also sent to students and faculty so that they can protect themselves. The University has emergency response and evacuation procedures that are tested in an annual drill / tabletop exercise. With various threats on campus, preparation and publicizing the plan is vital to keeping campus safe.

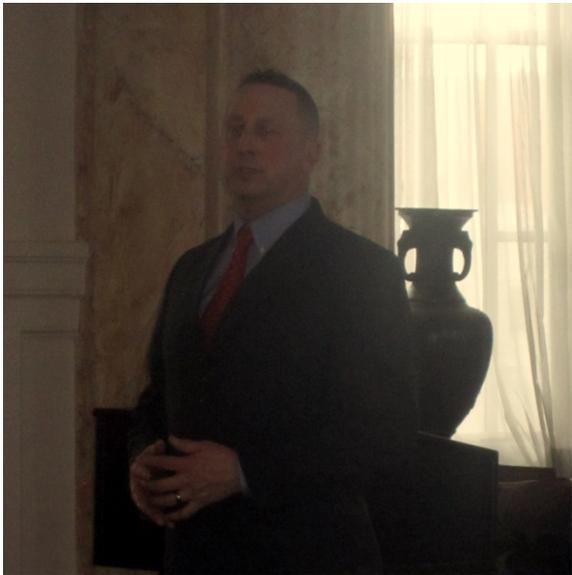
**A big CONGRATULATIONS to Barb Shaw on receiving the Chapter's MVP Award for 2015. Barb serves the Chapter as President and also sits on the National ACP Board. One of her main goals is to continue to provide value to the members.**

**The Liberty Valley ACP Chapter would also like to thank Immaculata University for hosting and sponsoring the meeting.**

**Pictures below.**



**Beautiful Rotunda in the Villa Maria Hall**



**George Schwartz, Immaculata University**



**Ret. Major General Robert French**



Dennis Dougherty, Immaculata University





**Pictured above – The ACP Liberty Valley Chapter Board and the Presenters**  
**Front row – Amy Lane, Robert French, Barb Shaw**  
**Back row – Dennis Dougherty, George Schwartz, Millard Jackson, Donna Arobone**