

Kelly Schmader

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Kelly Schmader is the assistant vice chancellor for facilities management at UCLA. He and his team oversee the campus buildings and grounds and ensure they are maintained and improved. Prior to his work at UCLA he worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District, leading their construction and modernization. For 28 years Kelly was an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps. His work with the Navy took him to Afghanistan where he commanded a task force that drilled water wells and constructed command and control facilities, to New Orleans post Hurricane Katrina, directing cleanup efforts, and to Haiti and Papua New Guinea where he helped build new schools. He received his bachelor's from Penn State University and his master's in construction management from The University of Texas in Austin.



1. Please share with us your life trajectory from the Navy to your current post as Assistant Vice Chancellor Facilities Management at UCLA?

I joined the U.S. Navy as soon as I graduated from college in 1982 and was blessed to experience a long, successful, and enjoyable 28-year career as a Civil Engineer Corps Officer. Upon transitioning from the Navy in 2010, my first job out of uniform was as Chief Facilities Executive for the Los Angeles Unified School District. In 2012, I moved to UCLA to become the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management and I just celebrated my 10-year anniversary with the campus.

2. How has your experience working in the Navy shaped your worldview and what new experiences have impacted you at UCLA?

I was very fortunate during my Navy career to travel the world and meet people from many different cultures and lands. Growing up in a very small, rural town, it was an experience that was all new to me. I made many friends and met many colleagues over the years across the globe, and came to respect and treasure the differences that my background had compared to so many others. I learned at a very early age to embrace equity, diversity and inclusion as a guiding life principal, and considering this principal is one of the



fundamental ones that UCLA stands for, it has enabled me to fit right into our campus environment.

3. You have played a key role in raising awareness about the presence of the Hiroshima tree on UCLA campus. What are your thoughts on its message and what more can GLH do, to convey its deep meaning and the win-win model, of environmental sustainability and global solidarity?

I am honored to help spread the GLH message by adopting the little Ginkgo tree and placing it on our campus with a name plate that describes its meaning. To me, the GLH message is a genuine ray of hope for a more sustainable and peaceful world that will benefit our children and grandchildren for generations to come.

4. In your opinion, how does the younger generation/students on campus compare with earlier generations in adopting sustainability in lifestyles and how can we go forward?

I believe today's younger generation is more passionate about and engaged with the prospect of a sustainable world than perhaps any generation before. I am privileged to see this first hand as I work with UCLA students on a routine basis who constantly advocate for a more sustainable and environmentally friendly society. Their keen interest in the subject makes me hopeful that the world is destined to become an even better place for all mankind.



Kelly Schmader speaks at UCLA veterans day ceremony.
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