

Meet the New Senior Director of Alumni Networks

KRISTINE WERLINICH

With the onset of the new school year, as the classrooms and corridors of UCLA are refreshed with the eager new faces of freshmen and transfer students, another part of campus is enjoying revitalization. UCLA Alumni Affairs has restructured towards a model that emphasizes alumni engagement. As a result, more resources were directed toward supporting alumni networks and young alumni initiatives, including the addition of several new staff.

In Oct. 2013, Kristine Werlinich joined UCLA Alumni Affairs as the Senior Director of Alumni Networks, having served the UCLA School of Law as director of alumni relations for 13 years. She joins a team that already supports an active and growing alumni community consisting of 19 academic and professional networks, 11 affinity networks, four cultural networks and 30 regional networks – including 14 in California, 11 in other states and 11 throughout the world.



INTERVIEW

Where are you from originally?

Kristine Werlinich: I am from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

What drew you to this position with UCLA Alumni Affairs?

K.W.: I liked the changes that were being made. I think that they were necessary and I felt that it was an exciting time to be part of this change and growth.

What about your background prepares you to work in alumni affairs?

K.W.: I have been in external affairs and alumni affairs for more than 15 years, having worked at both private and public universities. During my tenure at the UCLA School of Law I worked with school-based alumni relations. I was also president of the Los Angeles alumni chapter for Carnegie Mellon, so I also understand alumni affairs from the point of view of a volunteer. Additionally, I was on Carnegie Mellon's alumni board for six years.

How will you assist members of the UCLA alumni community?

K.W.: I want to support the networks and give them the tools to make their jobs easier. I want to help them have fun with what they're doing, but to also help them engage more alumni and get more alumni involved.

What are your impressions of UCLA Alumni Affairs thus far?

K.W.: I think it is a great place to work – it's a lot of fun! The people are fabulous and I'm having a great time. The alumni are so wonderful and very supportive of UCLA. It's nice to see how engaged the alumni are, how much they love UCLA and how much they want to give back to UCLA.

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