

Stand-Down for Safety

May 9, 2024







Jerry Schulte, AEC Associate Director for Construction Management



Geoff Chatas, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Geoff stressed how important a safe work environment is to him as the CFO at U-M. He told the group he was impressed with the safety culture at U-M, both the University's and the contractor's commitment. He said he is also impressed with the skill of the trade workers on campus and the quality of their work. Geoff acknowledged that the work our contractors and construction staff perform affects the lives of many people. He thanked them for their efforts in maintaining and expanding U-M's mission for teaching, research, and patient care. He reminded them to keep up the good work and stay safe!

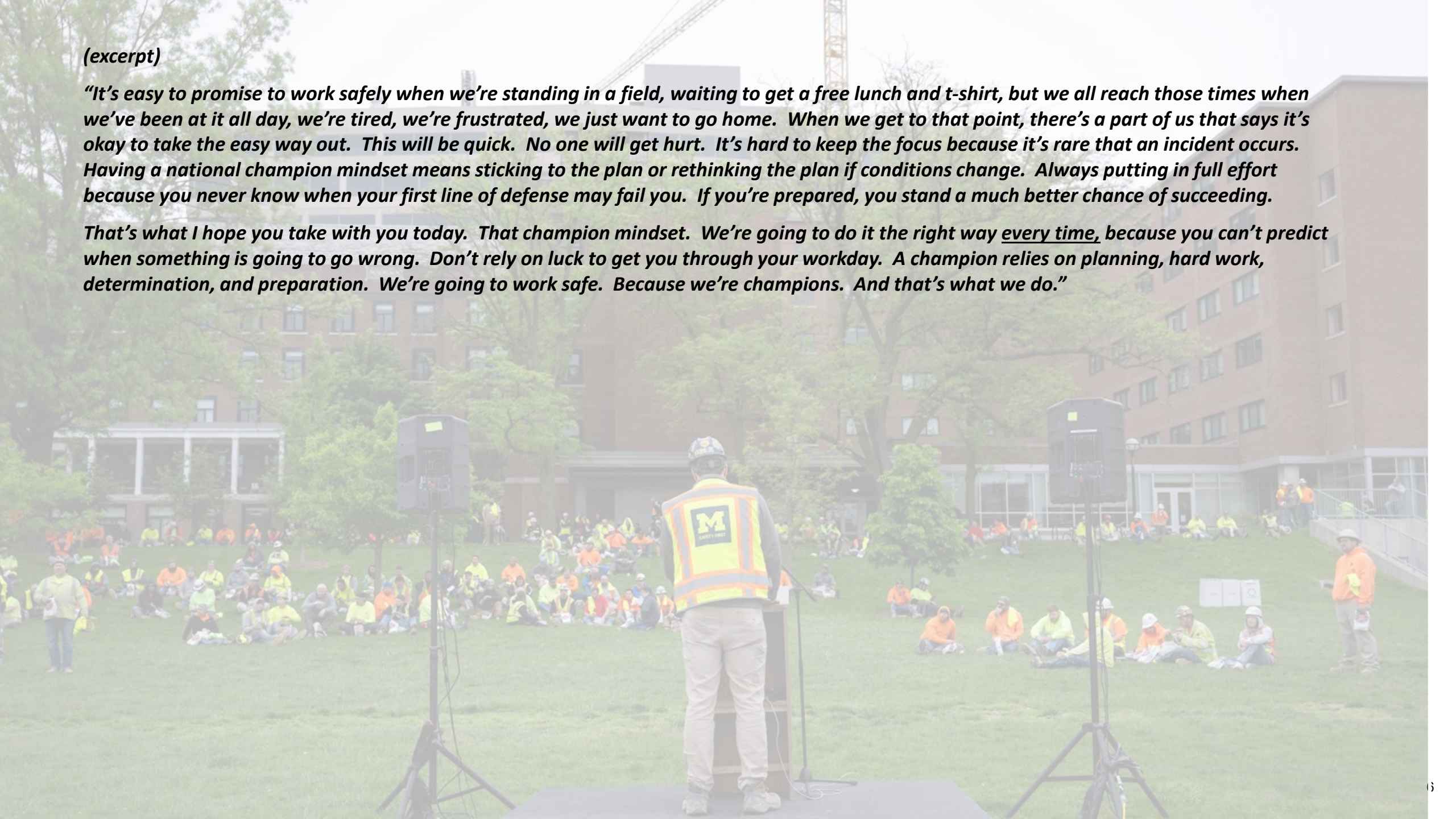


Matt Kettman, EHS Construction Safety Specialist

(excerpt)

“It’s easy to promise to work safely when we’re standing in a field, waiting to get a free lunch and t-shirt, but we all reach those times when we’ve been at it all day, we’re tired, we’re frustrated, we just want to go home. When we get to that point, there’s a part of us that says it’s okay to take the easy way out. This will be quick. No one will get hurt. It’s hard to keep the focus because it’s rare that an incident occurs. Having a national champion mindset means sticking to the plan or rethinking the plan if conditions change. Always putting in full effort because you never know when your first line of defense may fail you. If you’re prepared, you stand a much better chance of succeeding.

That’s what I hope you take with you today. That champion mindset. We’re going to do it the right way every time, because you can’t predict when something is going to go wrong. Don’t rely on luck to get you through your workday. A champion relies on planning, hard work, determination, and preparation. We’re going to work safe. Because we’re champions. And that’s what we do.”







Man 1: Wearing a dark blue jacket, a grey vest, blue jeans, and a black cap with a yellow "M" logo. He is sitting on the ledge with his hands in his lap.

Man 2: Wearing an orange jacket, a white hard hat, a yellow safety vest, and blue jeans. He is sitting on the ledge, eating from a white container.

Man 3: Wearing a black hoodie, blue jeans, and brown shoes. He is sitting on the ledge, eating a sandwich.

Man 4: Wearing a grey hoodie, blue jeans, and brown shoes. He is sitting on the ledge, eating a sandwich. A yellow safety vest is draped over his shoulders.

Man 5: Wearing a blue and yellow safety vest, blue jeans, and brown shoes. He is sitting on the ledge, eating a sandwich. A white beanie is on his head.

Man 6: Wearing a grey hoodie, blue jeans, and brown shoes. He is sitting on the ledge, talking on a mobile phone. A black cap is on his head.

Don't trust
was here
was here before
was here before







Marina Roelofs, AEC Executive Director, with Jerry Schulte, Associate Director for Construction



Thank you to our speakers, and contractors and U-M employees who participated in this event.

Your participation in promoting safe work practices positively impacts the work environment and the well being of those working for the University.