Richard Klemme is the Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Klemme is responsible for 1,000 employees located across Wisconsin's 72 counties, three tribal offices and five UW System campuses. Cooperative Extension works with and is funded by local, state and federal partners offering educational programs that address the important issues of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Prior to serving as Dean and Director, Klemme served as the Associate Dean and Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension, a joint position between UW-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Cooperative Extension, UW-Extension.

Dr. Klemme obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University and a B.S. in Economics and Mathematics from Illinois State University. He has been at UW-Madison since finishing his Ph.D. in 1980, starting as a farm management specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Klemme was named founding Director of the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems in 1989, a position he held until he became the Associate Dean on January 1, 2000.

Klemme and his wife, Cindy, live in Madison and have three grown children and one grandson.