

Thomas R. Kurfess, PhD
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At Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Thomas Kurfess serves as the Chief Manufacturing Officer and Interim Manufacturing Science Division Director overseeing strategic planning for advanced manufacturing initiatives.

In addition, he has held a joint faculty appointment with the Georgia Institute of Technology's George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering since 1994 as a professor and is HUSCO/Ramirez Distinguished Chair in fluid power and motion control for manufacturing.

Dr. Kurfess is an expert on the design and development of advanced systems by rapidly developing, scaling and integrating new technologies into production systems. He also has significant experience in production operations, automation and precision manufacturing systems, metrology, and policy issues related to advanced manufacturing.

Prior to joining ORNL in 2019, Dr. Kurfess served as the Assistant Director for Advanced Manufacturing at the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President of the United States of America from 2012-2013. In this role, he was responsible for engaging the federal sector and the greater scientific community to identify policy actions related to manufacturing. In 2005, Dr. Kurfess was named a professor and BMW Chair of Manufacturing in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research.

Dr. Kurfess is Past President of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). He is currently serving on the Board of Governors for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the Board of Directors for SME. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining and the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences. He is a fellow of ASME, SME and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

He holds a PhD in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Kurfess has received numerous awards including a National Science Foundation (NSF) Young Investigator Award, an NSF Presidential Faculty Fellowship Award, the ASME Pi Tau Sigma Award, SME Young Manufacturing Engineer of the Year Award, the ASME Blackall Machine Tool and Gage Award, the ASME Gustus L. Larson Award, an ASME Swanson Federal Award, and the SME Education Award.