

**Dr. Patricia G. Sims, President  
Drake State Community and Technical College  
Huntsville, Alabama**

On December 1, 2018, Dr. Patricia G. Sims began her tenure as President of Drake State Community and Technical College. She is the fourth President in the institution's 60-year history. Dr. Sims encourages a spirit of excellence and brings to the institution her knowledge of higher education and administration, as well as her passion for student success.

Dr. Sims has reimagined Drake State as a transformative force in North Alabama, empowering its community through accessible workforce training and higher education. Under her leadership, the college has prioritized expanding partnerships with business and industry, creating new opportunities and pathways for students, and increasing resources to support student achievement. As a result, the college has seen significant increases in state and federal funding, enrollment, and the expansion of its program offerings.

Dr. Sims is committed to ensuring that students have both the access and training needed to transform their lives. The college continues to demonstrate buoyant institutional growth and regional impact, with unduplicated enrollment increasing 16% since 2022–23 and dual enrollment expanding 48% over four years—from 337 to 499 students—reflecting strengthened school partnerships and expanded access.

Today, Drake State is aligning its programming with North Alabama's workforce needs through new programs launching in Fall 2026, including the RN Launch Program in partnership with Huntsville Hospital, an Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity, and an Associate of Applied Science in Systems Engineering.

Student success outcomes remain positive, with overall completions increasing 4% in the past year, led by growth in short-term certificates and associate degrees. Beyond academics, Drake State serves as an economic engine, generating an estimated \$61.0 million in annual regional impact and supporting 943 jobs, while associate degree graduates earn an average of \$10,900 more annually than individuals with only a high school diploma—demonstrating the College's critical role in advancing workforce development, economic mobility, and regional prosperity.

Dr. Sims has a history of breaking systemic barriers. Prior to her role as President of Drake State, she was the first African American to serve as an academic dean at Athens State University, where she led the College of Education, the largest teacher education program in the state of Alabama.

Dr. Sims understands the impact of policy and advocacy on advancing Drake State's mission, and she has served our country at the national, state, and local levels. In 2022, she was appointed by President Joseph Biden to serve on the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), where she represented the state of Alabama and higher education. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the national advocacy organization for community colleges. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF).

In 2020, Dr. Sims made history when she was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to the Board of Directors of the Alabama State Port Authority, becoming the first African American woman to serve in that role. Dr. Sims was also the first African American woman in the state to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust. Additionally, she is a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Regional Energy Research Council (RERC), where she advises TVA on energy management. Through her work in these positions, Dr. Sims aims to remove barriers to educational and economic opportunities for underserved communities.

Locally, she serves on the Huntsville Hospital Health Authority Board and the Huntsville Rotary Club, both organizations that serve the community.

Dr. Sims' recognition among women leaders across Alabama underscores her role as an agent of change whose influence extends far beyond the campus. In 2021, she was recognized by Yellowhammer as a Woman of Impact in Alabama, and in 2019, she was selected by the Alabama Media Group to be a member of the 2019 Class of Women Who Shape the State of Alabama.

She is a recipient of the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University Presidential Medallion. In 2019, she was awarded the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University's Outstanding Alumni Award, and in 2024, the 2024 Outstanding Citizen Award from the Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. She was recently recognized with the Community Leader Award from the Alabama Chapter of the National Officers of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE). Her journey to Drake State president makes her a living example of the promise of education and authentic mentorship. She is proof that the pathways she now creates for others can lead to impact and shared success.

Dr. Sims is an active member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

She and her husband, Themika, are the parents of a daughter, Kirsten.