Dr. Patricia G. Sims, the fourth president of Drake State Community and Technical College, has a long record of accomplishments and more than 25 years of experience in education administration. Under her leadership, Drake State is transitioning to become the premier training destination for businesses in greater Huntsville, Alabama. Sims’ tenure has already produced great gains for the College including a student training program with Mazda Toyota, expansion of Workforce Development credential programs, and the opportunity to serve as a member institution of the Alabama Defense Advanced Manufacturing Community (ADAMC) consortium to focus on the visibility, workforce training, and adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies in the region. Sims is an active member and serves on a number of boards throughout the Rocket City and State, including the Burritt Memorial Committee and the Alabama State Port Authority Board.

Bob Grissim, Principal Investigator

As Principle Investigator for the Drake State Community & Technical College’s Frontiers Research Program, Robert (Bob) Grissim manages project deadlines, schedules and budgets. He has 20 years of program management experience and 15 years of manufacturing design and computer-aided design (CAD) experience. Grissim earned his Bachelor of Science in Management of Technology from Athens State University along with multiple certifications in 3D modeling. He also serves as the college’s Workforce Development Director.

John Brett Ellis, Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Design Instructor

Drake State Community & Technical College alumnus Brett Ellis received his Associate in Engineering Graphics in 2015 and is an Engineering Design Instructor at the college. He is heavily involved in curriculum development for the additive manufacturing related to the Frontiers Research Program. Ellis got his start in the classroom in 2014 as a substitute and teacher’s aide and spent the past five years in the computer-aided design (CAD) field.

Jeanette Zatowski, Advanced Manufacturing Technical Programs Instructor

Jeanette Zatowski is the lead instructor for the Frontiers Research Program and the college’s advanced manufacturing technical programs. She oversees all technical aspects of the research program to ensure quality control standards and data collection procedures are met and followed. Zatowski will work with the program’s research interns directly teaching them 3D modeling and printing specific to research goals. Zatowski graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. She also has multiple certifications based in computer programming and 3D modeling.