SPEAKER INFORMATION

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Thomas Kurfess, Ph.D., is chief manufacturing officer and regents professor of mechanical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology and executive director of the Georgia Tech Manufacturing Institute. At Georgia Tech, he is the HUSCO/Ramirez distinguished chair in fluid power and motion control. He also serves as the chief technology officer at the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences.

Dr. Kurfess presently serves as an appointed member of the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Advisory (NNSA) Committee for Nuclear Security, and U.S. Department of the Navy's Science and Technology Board Federal Advisory Committee. His research focuses on the design and development of advanced manufacturing systems targeting secure digital manufacturing, additive and subtractive processes, and large-scale production enterprises.

From 2019-2021, Dr. Kurfess was on leave serving as the chief manufacturing officer and the founding director for the Manufacturing Science Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he was responsible for strategic planning in advanced manufacturing.

From 2012-2013, he was on leave serving 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. He was responsible for engaging the federal sector and the greater scientific community to identify possible areas for policy actions related to manufacturing. He was also responsible for coordinating federal advanced manufacturing research and development, addressing issues related to technology commercialization, identifying gaps in current federal research and development in advanced manufacturing, and developing strategies to address these gaps.

Dr. Kurfess served as the president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 2023-2024 and was president of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in 2018. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering and is a fellow of ASME, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He received his bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1986, 1987 and 1989, respectively. He also received a master's degree from MIT in electrical engineering and computer science in 1988.

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