



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor
Alabama Community College System
135 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

March 25, 2024

Dear Chancellor Baker,

I am writing in support of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) application for an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and to confirm my college's intent to implement key portions of the associated project as a sub-grantee. Our school will be joining other ACCS colleges in replacing old, high-mileage, gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles with new energy-efficient electric vehicles (EVs). With grant funds, our college will replace a total of five (5) vehicles with EVs and will also purchase and install two (2) Level 3 (fast) charging stations and one (1) Level 2 charging station to enable their continuous use and to support further fleet electrification in the future.

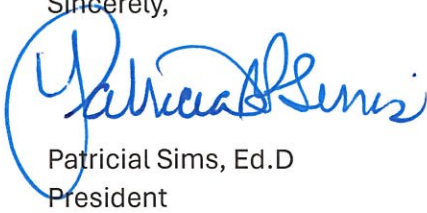
In addition to adopting EVs, Drake State Community & Technical College will use grant funds for energy-efficiency building renovation projects. Renovations will involve implementation of the most up-to-date building energy codes and include the purchase and installation of certified energy-efficient mechanical systems, windows, doors, lighting, and/or other building products to replace inefficient products. This will include the implementation of a building energy performance management system, enabling the College to automate mechanical systems to align with scheduled building usage and allowing us to manage energy consumption, save on operating costs, and reduce energy waste. We will also be installing individual utility meters on every building, enabling us to more precisely measure the effect of the energy upgrades and allowing us to compare energy usage of buildings that have undergone energy-efficiency renovations to those that have not.

As a leading change-agent in our service area, Drake State Community & Technical College is eager to invest in projects that showcase innovation, promote economic growth, and have a positive social impact. We believe this is such a project. By implementing EVs and multiple energy-efficiency measures in existing facilities, the College will greatly reduce fuel and electricity bills. These savings translate into financial resources better used to support the success of our students, the majority of whom are low-income, first-generation or otherwise disadvantaged and who live or work in low-income or disadvantaged communities. In addition, Drake State Community & Technical College will be reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and increasing the quality, comfort, and safety of the learning environment for our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project. We believe it will be transformational and can be replicated across our state for even greater emissions reductions and energy savings.

We look forward to working with ACCS to share what we learn and accomplish in the project through community workshops and hope to serve as a model for other organizations considering electric vehicle adoption or building renovations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Patricia Sims, Ed.D
President