Over the last twenty five years, Mr Kearney has been deeply committed to the development of education in Queensland and has been a major benefactor of a number of educational institutions in the Gold Coast region. Griffith is particularly grateful for Mr Kearney’s generous contributions to the University. He has been a major donor to the Sir Zelman Cowen Law Library Collection; he funded the establishment of a named Chair of Law and he and his wife, Alison were founding patrons of the Moot Court at the Gold Coast campus. During the 1990’s he worked tirelessly to raise the University’s fundraising profile through his activities as Deputy Chair of the Griffith University Fund Board.

As a current member and former Chairperson of the Gold Coast Advisory Council, he has made significant contributions towards ensuring that the Gold Coast campus continues as the major focus for higher education in the region. In April 2000 Mr Kearney was made a Doctor of the University in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the University.

Mr Kearney’s personal commitment to quality education and his effective leadership have earned him the respect and support of not only the Griffith University community, but also the wider Gold Coast community.