

Karen Kearney
Bio - 2025

Karen Kearney currently serves as Treasurer, Stanford University. She is responsible for the university's capital markets strategy, debt portfolio, working capital/liquidity management and merchant services, as well as governance for the university's global subsidiaries serving as a director/officer on entities in China, India, South Korea, South Africa, Chile, UK. In 2025, her team was awarded the AFP's Pinnacle Award for a merchant services application (UniRev) that they developed to streamline credit card and digital payments. This application has saved the University significant costs and has been enthusiastically adopted across the community.

She has spent almost 30 years at Stanford in various financial roles, with experience in financial reporting, systems, tax, audit and compliance, and global operations. In between tenures at Stanford, she was CFO at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art for three years. Her finance career began at PriceWaterhouse, London, after graduating from University of Cambridge in economic geography.

She is passionate about sustainability and climate finance and serves as a Trustee/Director of Climate Bond Initiative (CBI), a UK charity. CBI works to support the mobilization of capital flows in the bond markets to fund projects and assets necessary for a rapid transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient economy. She also volunteers on her local school board's Bond Oversight Committee to ensure bond funds are spent in accordance with voter intent.

She lives in the SF Bay Area, is married with two kids – a Masters graduate from University of Rochester and a sophomore at University of California, Santa Barbara.