Dr. Jeffrey Toney is the dean of the College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences at Kean University. Dr. Toney's career has spanned both the pharmaceutical industry and academia.

His current scholarship is focused on drug discovery using an interdisciplinary approach. As a Senior Research Fellow at Merck Research Laboratories, he studied a variety of therapeutic targets for which high throughput biochemical assays were developed.

The Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program is a national competitive awards program available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Up to 15 new awards are made annually. Each award provides up to $60,000 paid over three years at $20,000 per year for joint use by the biology and chemistry departments at each recipient institution. The funding supports research stipends for undergraduate students and ancillary programs that foster interactions between these departments.

Four interdisciplinary research projects at Kean University will be supported by the grant. Six faculty researchers will work together with eight undergraduate students. Kean University faculty researchers include Dr. Jeffry Fasick, Dr. Matthew Mongelli and Dr. Farshad Tamari of the Biology department and Dr. Jeffrey Toney, Dr. Dale Vitale and Dr. Frederick Lee of the Chemistry department.

The Merck/AAAS program goals are to:

- enhance undergraduate education through research experience that emphasize the interrelationship between chemistry and biology
- encourage students to pursue graduate education in chemistry and life sciences
- foster undergraduate programs and activities that bridge chemistry and biology