Denise Sheat has represented Te Taumutu Rūnanga for 10 years on Ahumairaki, Lincoln University Council’s Māori sub-committee, her work ensuring the continuation of the strong relationship between the university and the rūnanga.

As a member of Ahumairaki, Denise helped drive the strategic direction of the university to meet the needs and aspirations of Māori students.

Denise has also supported pōwhiri and cultural events at Lincoln, as well as at university graduations and Māori celebrations, and she has performed the Kaikaranga role for the university on numerous occasions.

Denise is a veteran advocate for Māori education and biculturalism in Aotearoa, and has represented Ngāi Tahu in various governance positions.

In the mid-1980s, as a resource teacher of Māori, she travelled around Canterbury and across to the West Coast to teach schools how they could better honour their Treaty of Waitangi commitments to bicultural education, and to help with their Māori programme, Taha Māori, in the classroom.

She has also lectured in Māori education at the Christchurch College of Education.

In 2015, her dedication to promoting and growing biculturalism in Aotearoa was officially recognised when she was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and Education.

Denise Sheat is a worthy recipient of the 2021 Ngāti Moki Trophy for Māori Leadership.

The Ngāti Moki Trophy was inaugurated in 2008 as a gift from Te Taumutu Rūnanga to Lincoln University and is awarded each year to a person who has shown considerable leadership and commitment to Māori development and advancement at Lincoln University. It can be awarded to a student, graduate, alumnus, staff member or associate of the University as recognition of this leadership.

Professor Bruce McKenzie
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor