Dr. Karanfil became Clemson's vice president for research on Feb. 1, 2016. He is an environmental engineer whose research on improving municipal water quality has been funded with nearly $10 million. He joined the Clemson faculty in 1996 and served as chair of the environmental engineering and Earth sciences department. In 2014 he was named the associate dean for research in the College of Engineering and Science.

As vice president for research, Dr. Karanfil steers the university’s research strategy, which includes working closely with faculty and staff at Clemson and with collaborators in industry and the community. He oversees the management of a portfolio that spans the gamut of science and innovation: advanced materials, cyber-infrastructure, big data science, energy, transportation, advanced manufacturing, health innovation, human resilience, sustainable environment, architecture, education, humanities and the arts.

Dr. Karanfil earned his bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from Istanbul Technical University and completed his graduate work – Master of Science and Ph.D. — at the University of Michigan. He is a fellow of the International Water Association, received a National Science Foundation Early CAREER Award in 2001 and mentored more than 80 graduate students and post-doctoral research associates at Clemson. He also serves as a consultant to water and wastewater utilities and consulting companies.