

Minnesota Professionals for Psychology Applied to Work

Member Profiles

by Megan Pavot, Co-Secretary

Dr. John Fennig, Managing Partner, DRJ Consulting

Where are you in your professional life – just starting out, about to retire, part-way through? How well are you fulfilling the multiple aspects of your professional, personal and family life? John Fennig considers himself quite blessed in this – and strives to help his clients realize the best in their own lives. By owning his own company and having the good fortune of a great staff, he has the flexibility and resources to have a satisfying career, while spending ample time with his family at his home in North Oaks, MN. His wife, whom he describes as “the brightest and sweetest woman on the planet,” is the director of resident training in Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota. John also has three children, a 14 year-old sophomore in high school, and six year-old twins (one girl and one boy). He is also helping raise a 6-month-old Portuguese Water Dog, which has proven to be quite a challenge for him as he is an expert on adults, but a novice with animals.

John received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. John's University. Although he went to Ohio State University for his M.A. and Ph.D in Counseling Psychology, he decided he could not survive without the four seasons and great quality of life that is Minnesota. So he returned to set down roots, doing his pre-doctoral training at the University of Minnesota (Counseling Center) while also living and working at the University of St. Thomas in Student Services. Upon graduating, he spent a very formative time with MDA Consulting, and then began work at PDI, where he focused on providing assessment-based organizational consulting, and conducting courses in management skills and professional development.

Since 1991, John has started, or helped start, six companies including Navitas, the third largest wind power company in the USA, and DRJ Consulting, the OD/HRD consulting practice he continues to operate today. Technology is a big passion for John. Not only does he run his business website, he also sells web-based automated survey and assessment tools, and even has a family website where he shares video clips and pictures with family and friends.

One of the highlights of John's career has been mentoring over 60 high school, undergraduate, work-study, and doctoral students, including those doing their practicum and formal post-doctorate work. He is the director of Education and Training of APA's Division 15 (the Society for Consulting Psychology), as well as an instructor for several universities. John's career has been largely focused on training, coaching, and supervising consultants with varying levels of expertise. He enjoys being able to work at the top of organizations, and advise senior leaders who are in a position to affect the lives of many people. He has enjoyed quite an eclectic mix of clients and industries including religious orders, local and federal governments, police departments, power producers, and financial and retail companies.

John has been a member of MPPAW since it began, and was also a member of its predecessor AISCORP. He enjoys the meetings because they provide a “town square” for those in the field to meet people and share stories, and he appreciates the hard work of those who make MPPAW go.