John P. Campbell, 2014–15 Distinguished Teacher
Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Teaching Award

John P. Campbell transformed the University of Minnesota’s Industrial and Organizational Psychology program into the top program in the nation. Along the way, he helped shape generations of highly sought-after graduates who have gone on to be leaders in academia and industry.

Colleagues describe him as an enormously influential scholar and the most incisive thinker in the field.

“Many fine scholars have lengthy vitas and noteworthy accomplishments,” says one. “Few fundamentally change the way an entire field thinks.”

“As students, we marveled at not only the range of his contributions, but the sheer volume of them,” says a former student. “He was in the building in the morning. He was in the building at night. His door [was always] open and his office light always on. You hated to go home because he was still there … and he already had his degree!”

Campbell served as the Department of Psychology’s director of graduate studies for more than 40 years and as director of the program for more than 20. His teaching and research have uniquely shaped society’s understanding of leadership and performance. Throughout, he has led by tireless example.

According to one former student, “John Campbell is a man who is indefatigable in his pursuit of excellence and support of students. He is mentor, teacher, scholar, and role model—and without peer.”

Another former student, now a professor himself, says of Campbell, “He reflects the best parts of how I train my own graduate students.”

[My] students are expected to develop a level of expertise that, for many topics, is superior to that of the faculty. We say explicitly that … the individual must stop being a student and become a colleague.”

Professor
Department of Psychology
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota
Twin Cities

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A metaphor for the source of knowledge, this tree has been the emblem of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers since 1993.