

People of Peoria: Jeff Ensinger, Executive Director at BNI of Central Illinois

Jeff Ensinger has lived and worked in Peoria, IL his entire life, and has encountered a wide variety of people. When asked why he loves Peoria, Jeff credited his community.

Ensinger has been the Executive Director of BNI of Central Illinois since 2006 when he was offered the position by the retiring executive. BNI, Business Network International, prides itself on being the “world’s leading business networking and referral organization.”

Ensinger’s work experience includes 13 years in the restaurant industry, time as a headhunter in the 80’s, and over 20 years in the insurance and financial industry before finding his current place at BNI. He emphasizes the strong work ethic of Peoria professionals and his diverse experience has exposed him to the type of talent that Peoria attracts.

“When I was a headhunter in the late 80’s, I moved a lot of people to other cities because they wanted to get out of Peoria and it was funny how a lot moved back,” said Ensinger.

Ensinger described his wife and his anxiety when they moved to North Peoria after living in West Peoria for over 30 years.

“We had amazing neighbors where we were ... and one of the things we were worried about the most is what would we get when we moved but the new neighbors are great as well,” said Ensinger.

A Peoria Heights High School graduate, Ensinger and his wife, Susan, call Peoria home. They enjoy eating at Brasky’s on N. Knoxville and Jonah’s Seafood House in East Peoria. For recreation, Ensinger enjoys the wide variety of events offered by the Peoria Civic Center as well as the Peoria Park District golf courses. Ensinger is proud to call Peoria home and delighted to know his community is as well.