

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book *The Courage to Teach* and whose promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



Robyn J. Blair, MD, FAAP

Program Director for Pediatrics
Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, New York

Nominators had this to say:

“In continuity clinic, Dr. Blair is a fantastic role model for us, helping both residents and students develop useful "illness scripts," on commonly encountered pediatric issues. Going above and beyond for her patients, Dr. Blair can often be seen providing extensive breastfeeding counseling to a new mother or seeing a family for an appointment just to provide reassurance as they go through a divorce. As a resident preceptor, she offers continuous feedback and takes true pride in our progress. Dr. Blair teaches at every opportunity, through word and example, in formal curriculum discussions and informally throughout each clinic session. At nearly every clinic session, Dr. Blair will bring interesting articles and diagnostic dilemmas for the residents to work through together. Additionally, Dr. Blair encourages teamwork amongst the residents and staff in clinic, ensuring we have a daily huddle to discuss scheduled patients. Dr. Blair truly embodies the meaning of a lifelong learner, and she has instilled that quality in all of us.”

“Dr. Blair has a strong interest in well-being, and has implemented a range of well being initiatives into Pediatrics. These include a robust mentorship program, programs to help residents cope with adverse patient events, and incorporation of Schwartz Rounds into departmental activities. The list of residents whom she has personally mentored is enormous; if one counts the patients those residents have cared for, her positive impact on the lives of children numbers in the tens of thousands.”