

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 fellows, 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*; his promotion of the concept of “living divided no more” has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



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Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. O'Toole's support for [residents] is unparalleled. Even beyond the formal check-ins to ensure that our professional needs are met, she also understands that so much of mentorship and career support come from being accessible in unplanned moments of concern or uncertainty. In my four years as a resident, she has always been available to guide me toward my goals, whether that meant providing the guidance herself or connecting me with a needed resource. Dr. O'Toole is the kind of mentor who will mention your name in a room of opportunities, and I never doubt that she remains invested in me when I'm not in the room. Her support for residents doesn't end with career development, but she is also deeply invested in resident well-being and work-life balance.”

“On a program level, I admire Dr. O'Toole's eye toward change. She makes dedicated space for honest feedback from [residents], and her response is never dismissal, but instead a deep exploration of the concerns with a genuine interest in pursuing meaningful changes.”

“In her role as divisional education lead, Dr. O'Toole has led countless faculty development sessions that trained the next generation of educators. She also co-founded the UC GME Educational Bootcamp, a robust faculty development experience that provides program directors, core faculty [members], and program administrators with basic and advanced education competencies.”

“She is the educator I want to be.”