

## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency and fellowship programs at their Sponsoring Institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education (GME) programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors GME programs. 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.



**Gregory K. Unruh, MD**  
Designated Institutional Official  
Kansas University Medical Center  
Kansas City, Kansas

### **Nominators had this to say:**

“Without a doubt, Dr. Unruh is the most respected individual in our department, and perhaps in our entire hospital. There is no other anesthesiologist that we look up to more than Dr. Unruh. Through his years of selfless service to his patients and our institution, Dr. Unruh has garnered an unparalleled level of experience and expertise. His knowledge base is unrivaled, as is his dedication to sharing that knowledge with his colleagues, residents, and medical students. His presence is always felt during our morning lectures, where he doles out the wisdom he has acquired through decades of experience as program director and oral board examiner. To be taught by such a knowledgeable and caring anesthesiologist, we are certain to succeed in our academic challenges.”

“During his tenure as DIO, Dr. Unruh developed GME subcommittees to foster and encourage innovation across GME topics. His unwavering support of the GME Wellness Subcommittee has led to higher resident pay, free gym membership for all [learners], expansion of free counseling and educational support services, electronic [health] record efficiency training, visible reporting systems for resident mistreatment, and [learner] space and equipment improvements. After finding that burnout was higher among female [learners] on our annual resident wellness survey, Dr. Unruh supported a multi-phase focus group study: “Female Trainee and Faculty Experiences.” In addition to identifying the problems, this study aimed to identify actionable items that improve the [education and] training experience and build mentoring relationships. These discussion groups led to free breast pumps and refrigeration support for all lactating parents, a monthly female physicians discussion group series, a planning a family series, computers in the lactation rooms, and emergency childcare coverage.”