

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.



Manuel C. Vallejo, MD, DMD

Designated Institutional Official
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Nominators had this to say:

“Since Dr. Vallejo was appointed the DIO for West Virginia University School of Medicine [in] 2016, we have seen extraordinary growth in our GME enterprise from 35 ACGME[-accredited] programs with 400 [residents/fellows] to 82 programs with more than 600 [residents/fellows] in a combination of 53 ACGME[-accredited] programs, four accredited through CAST [Committee on Advanced Specialty Training under the American Board of Neurosurgery], and 25 non-

standard programs.”

“In order to better prepare our program managers, Dr. Vallejo has facilitated the addition of a full-time trainer for the newly hired managers. This provides ongoing education and mentorship ensuring that all the tasks related to their complex duties are met with skill and efficiency. It is frequent to hear him say we must be ‘site visit ready’ every day and encourages ongoing quality improvement efforts related to the structure and function of all our GME programs. In May 2023 our once annual resident quality improvement fair and competition will be once again live following a hiatus from the recent global pandemic. He was committed to resurrecting this important event and showcasing the outstanding work being done here.”

“Dr. Vallejo as an outstanding teacher, a compassionate clinician, and a devoted mentor to residents and medical students. He displays the humanistic values of being a compassionate and caring physician to his patients. Whether it is telling jokes to lighten the mood or reassuring a scared patient, he is constantly making people smile even in stressful situations. Dr. Vallejo is an incredible mentor not only in medicine but also in life in general.”