

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.



Michael A. Malone, MD, FAAFP

Program Director for Family Medicine
Tidelands Health with MUSC Health
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Nominators had this to say:

“In 2017, our community hospital system started a family medicine residency in hopes of providing practitioners for our area and raising the standard of the care. I was asked to serve briefly as interim program director until we found the right person. Dr. Malone's application was indeed unique; his credentials were frankly amazing: advanced [education and] training on obstetrics; acupuncture; core faculty [member] at a rural program; medical director at Penn State Hershey; director for a global health program in Africa; teaching awards; journal editorial boards; and Best Doctors in America. However, the real surprise occurred when we interviewed Mike: what a wonderful person!”

“Dr. Malone saw the value and teaching and learning opportunities of medical mission trips to underserved areas and offered a rotation in Uganda as a standard for our resident physicians. He also established regular participation by faculty [members] and residents in our county free medical clinics, as well as clinical rotations in the various federally qualified health clinics in the district.”

“I received a phone call from Dr. Malone shortly after Match Day emails were released. He and a group of senior residents were cheering for me on the other end of the line. It was a warm and welcoming conversation. It felt like the beginning of a friendship rather than a cold, stale contact from my [residency] program. It was reminiscent of family calling to congratulate me on a massive achievement. Since day one, I knew I was valued at Tidelands Health Family Medicine Residency. I believe that spirit of family and belonging largely starts with the program director. Dr. Malone has displayed an unwavering dedication to individual wellness, evidence-based instruction, and leadership development.”