

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award
for Program Director Excellence



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents/fellows and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. The ACGME congratulates the 2018 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Jerry Rushton, MD, MPH
Program Director for Pediatrics
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nominators had this to say:

“First and foremost, Dr. Rushton is an outstanding role model for advocacy for the patient and the learner. His work and support for resident training models to support wellness and prevent burnout began in 2009 or well before these topics hit the forefront of healthcare concerns. His expertise in this area began with his significant clinical work in childhood stress and depression and allowed him to have an extra insight into the mental well-being of the pediatric resident.”

“His devotion to Humanism in Medicine is best demonstrated by his daily work but also highlighted by his role in the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He has been a board member of their National Advisory Council Executive Board Member from 2014 to 2017 and is also the Indiana University Chapter Advisor from 2009 to the present.”

“We could only be so lucky to develop the qualities Dr. Rushton exhibits each day as a physician, mentor and friend, not only in caring for patients, but also for peers and colleagues. Influencing the lives of others, both personally and through example, can make the biggest differences, which is what Dr. Rushton has done for countless residents in his years leading our residency.”