The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency/fellowship programs at their sponsoring institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors such programs. The ACGME congratulates the recipients of the 2015 Courage to Lead Award.

Miriam Bar-On, MD
Designated Institutional Official
University of Nevada School of Medicine
Las Vegas, NV

Nominators had this to say: “The political, funding and higher education climate within which Dr. Bar-on has functioned for the past eight years has been conflictual and controversial, with intrastate political tension and a severe downturn in higher education funding and medical care reimbursement. Dr. Bar-on not only has survived but thrived within this difficult situation.” “Dr. Bar-on leads an annual Graduating Resident Seminars in Las Vegas and Reno to provide residents with guidance on interviewing for jobs and fellowships, preparing a CV, managing financial issues, reviewing contracts, seeking medical licensure, and creating good work/life balance. She also provides links to a newly-developed “job board” and has focused on specific resident populations such as anticipated graduates of a rural family medicine residency program to encourage them to stay in rural Nevada.”

“Dr. Bar-on developed a "Residents as Teachers" program in 2009 and has continued to offer this annually, now a required part of our first-year resident on-boarding program. This program includes seven online modules and has a minimum pass rate. This program led to the creating of a Resident Teaching Honor Roll that recognizes outstanding resident teachers. A particularly exciting program is the creation three years ago of an annual competition for residents in critical appraisal skills.”