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 2015 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.

Christopher K. Varley, MD
Program Director for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Nominators had this to say:
“Dr. Varley's program has a 5-year accreditation cycle and has grown under his leadership to 5 fellows per year. In addition, he interviews all general residency applicants interested in child and adolescent psychiatry, provides mentors for these residents, personally keeps in touch with them, and teaches general and child and adolescent psychiatry residents, as well as medical students. He also started a faculty development program for our child and adolescent psychiatry junior faculty. His connection with trainees and junior colleagues is clearly from the heart. He is passionate about educating the emerging workforce of child psychiatrists, but also takes a personal interest in each trainee or mentee, really gets to know them, and carefully attends to each person's interests and aspirations.”

“Nationally, Dr. Varley is held in very high esteem by other psychiatry and child psychiatry program directors. He has served on the Executive Council of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) for 10 years and is now President Elect of this organization. He was a strong leader of the AADPRT Child Caucus for 3 years and was instrumental in the development of the Pediatrics Portal programs. He has also been very active in the Training and Education Committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.”