

David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997-2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.



Heather K. Buxton, MSEd, MD
Psychiatry
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

About the Project:

“Dr. Buxton is a psychiatry resident and she has demonstrated educational innovation, improved collaboration across departments, and advanced humanism in the design, implementation and expansion of a trauma informed care (TIC) curriculum. Psychological TIC helps to make the medical environment more supportive, comprehensive and integrated for trauma survivors – building a humanistic connection

between physicians and their patients. Creating a focus not only on the physical injuries but also the mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of injury is what makes Dr. Buxton excellent! She secured an education innovation grant and first built a curriculum to train-the-trainer within the Department of Psychiatry. This course was well received and she brought the program across departments, into the Department of Surgery. Dr. Buxton taught, coached and guided our class of general surgery interns to a more nuanced understanding of TIC, and curriculum was met with rave reviews!”

“Last fall, Heather Buxton applied for institutional grant funding and then recruited psychiatry residents to undergo formal trauma informed care training. These residents, including Heather, were trained by an expert in the field (Dr Alisha Moreland). Heather Buxton then empowered and led her psychiatry colleagues through curriculum development based on the aforementioned training. Heather Buxton led her peers through months of brainstorming, edits, and practice and then successfully co-delivered a case-based TIC curriculum to 38 surgical interns.”

“The curriculum addresses the neurobiology of trauma, the principles of trauma informed care, patient and provider narrative and vicarious trauma. The project has continued to grow through the empowerment of surgical interns. Heather Buxton is currently coaching surgical interns as they modify the curriculum and plan to teach incoming interns and other residents in their department. The next phase of the project will begin to gauge not only efficacy of curriculum but the implementation of trauma informed practice at OHSU.”