

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 2017 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



William T. Shimeall, MD, MPH, FACP

Program Director for Internal Medicine
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center/National Capital Consortium
Bethesda, MD

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Shimeall accomplished one of the most complex tasks in military medicine history by integrating the storied internal medicine training programs at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center in 2011. Despite multiple logistical and cultural challenges, Dr. Shimeall performed a full scale renovation of the existing programs and masterfully pulled together residents and staff from both institutions to create the largest and most robust internal medicine program in the DoD. He used this period to implement many innovative changes including establishing and fortifying relationships with nine other sites across the National Capital Region and overseas. He established multiple military unique rotations for internal medicine residents to better prepare them for military careers.”

“Early in my time as a resident, Captain Shimeall challenged us to develop an improved approach to error review. He encouraged residents to bring about change for the betterment of the program, resulting in the creation of a monthly Quality Improvement Review Conference. This brought patient safety and a process improvement thought process to the typical Morbidity and Mortality conference setting. This example highlights the innovation that Dr. Shimeall fosters in the program and is now being adopted by other programs at Walter Reed due to an overwhelmingly positive response.”