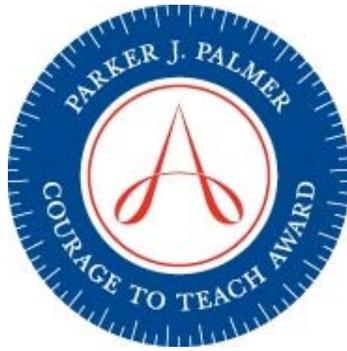


**Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award**  
**for Program Director Excellence**



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 2015 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



**LTC Matthew W. Short, MD, FAAFP**  
Program Director for Transitional Year  
Madigan Healthcare System  
Puyallup, WA

**Nominators had this to say:**

“Dr. Short is the program director of the largest Army only transitional year (TY) program with up to 22 residents each year; he has mentored over 150 residents in the last nine years. Army TY programs are unique because they include many residents who were not selected for the specialty of their choice. This results in a disproportionate amount of challenged learners with low morale at the beginning of each academic year. Dr. Short’s displays phenomenal leadership and puts residents at ease during house staff orientation by providing structure and hope to residents feeling overwhelmed by uncertainty about their future. He reminds his residents that they start the program with a clean slate. He uses a “help me help you” philosophy.”

“He views the core competencies as the “essential ingredients” of a well-rounded physician and designs every aspect of his program to both teach and assess resident competence. He has created numerous simulation based training and assessment methods which he has shared at national education meetings around the country to include four ACGME conferences. In addition, he has perfected a method to allow residents to present their mistakes to peers with the purpose of improving patient safety using a systematic approach. His “My Reflection” curriculum allows residents to learn the art of medicine that is not found in a book. From dealing with a patient death to learning the best way to examine the ears of a screaming infant, Dr. Short personally discusses these write-ups with his residents each quarter. Dr. Short’s program is never stagnant; he always encourages and utilizes resident and faculty feedback each year to improve the program.”