

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency and fellowship programs at their Sponsoring Institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education (GME) programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors GME programs. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book *The Courage to Teach*; his promotion of the concept of “living divided no more” has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



Ted Epperly, MD

Full Circle Health
Boise, Idaho

Nominators Had This to Say:

“Dr Epperly has been the DIO at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho (FMRI) since 2013, and has ushered in the ACGME’s new accreditation system, Milestones, changes in work hours, and a culture of wellness within the FMRI. Under Dr. Epperly’s leadership, the GME program at FMRI has grown from one family medicine residency and one fellowship in 2001, to four family medicine residencies and five fellowships in 2020.”

“In 2007, Dr Epperly innovatively led changing the FMRI to a Federally Qualified Health Center, and in 2011 helped us evolve to become one of the first 11 Teaching Health Centers in the United States.”

“Presently, Dr Epperly and our faculty are developing a pediatric residency under our Sponsoring Institution in Idaho. The need is tremendous, as there is not a pediatric residency from Seattle to Minneapolis in this part of our nation.”

“Dr. Epperly was appointed by Idaho Governor Otter to develop the Ten-Year Graduate Medical Education (GME) Strategic Plan for Idaho in 2017. This plan is guiding Idaho medical education growth from nine GME Programs in the state to 21 programs (family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, surgery, emergency medicine, and pediatrics) and from 134 residents per year in training throughout the state to 347 residents in 2027. This is much needed in a state that ranked 49th out of 50 States for GME Positions per capita. Dr Epperly not only developed this Ten Year GME Strategic Plan for Idaho but is the key architect each year in its continued funding and operation.”

“I served as a chief resident last year. This exposed me to another dimension of Ted as a leader. He delegates well and empowers those around him to do the right thing. Faculty leaders are receptive to

resident concerns regarding curriculum and wellbeing because they know support for residents goes straight to the top of the organization. Ted's skill in delegating to the right people has also allowed dynamic faculty members to flourish in their areas of interest. This leads to residents receiving subspecialty-level training in areas such as HIV, viral hepatitis, endoscopy, transgender medicine, and reproductive health services."