

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and fellows, and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. 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.



Nicole M. Paradise Black, MD, MEd

Pediatrics

University of Florida, Shands Children’s Hospital
Gainesville, Florida

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Black is both an institutional and national leader in innovation within housestaff education. As outlined in her CV, she is intimately involved in national educational projects related to quality improvement and education, specifically on telemedicine, wellness, feedback, and inclusion, diversity, equity and allyship (IDEA). These areas are central to the CLER focus areas. Locally, she is a leader

within our CLER oversight committee. She has implemented a curriculum centered on IDEA for our pediatric program.”

“Dr. Black constantly applies quality improvement principals to the oversight of the residency program. She is thoughtful about metrics and collects and studies data and insight from others while developing new curricula. Most recently, she has applied these skills to an interactive IDEA curriculum for pediatric residents and in evaluating and teaching resident skills needed for telehealth.”

“As previously mentioned, she is a mentor to all our program directors in pediatrics and the DIO recommends all new PDs meet with her. Given her wealth of knowledge and experience, our GME office often asks her to serve on task forces to address specific programs. As a testament to the program and environment she has built, the pediatric program at University of Florida recently received the inaugural “GME Program of the Year Award”. To be considered for this award, only nominations from housestaff are selected. A committee, comprised of housestaff, PDs and coordinators, selects the winning program. Pediatrics was the overwhelming choice.”

“Nicole is a true innovator. Her passion for creating exceptional educators in pediatric hospital medicine led to the development of the APEX Teaching Program. She has created a boot camp for medical

students going into pediatrics and a Residents-As-Teachers program for the University of Florida. Nicole was a core member of the Pediatric National Nighttime curriculum leadership and development team, which won the Ray E. Helfer Award for Innovation in Medical Education from the Academic Pediatric Association. Most recently, Nicole has developed a national telehealth curriculum which is linked to an Entrustable Professional Activity.”