The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency programs at their sponsoring institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital or other type of institution that sponsors residency programs.

Karen E. Broquet, MD, MHPE
Designated Institutional Official
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Springfield, Illinois

Nominators had this to say:
“In the past several years, the institution has experienced higher turnover of programs directors due mainly to promotions and retirement. Dr. Broquet has seized this opportunity to develop a more detailed new program director orientation, to increase faculty and staff development sessions, and to promote mentorship amongst seasoned faculty, while she continues to support and lead the experienced program directors through the changes of new accreditation requirements. Her activities are always motivated by her desire to have programs of excellence.”

“As Chair of the Graduate Medical Education Committee, she has developed a Wellbeing Subcommittee to strengthen and focus institutional efforts to foster an environment that promotes wellness across both our GME community and our institution. She seeks input from the various stakeholders, including faculty members, advanced practice providers, program coordinators and staff members that are integral to the health of the clinical and academic work environment.”