

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.



Alice Reeves Goepfert, MD
Designated Institutional Official
University of Alabama Hospital
Birmingham, Alabama

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Goepfert is devoted to improving the resident experience outside the walls of the hospital. When I raised the question of augmenting resident benefits, she immediately jumped to action and began working to gather information and seek meetings with administration to advocate for house staff. Within three months, I have already seen significant progress and renegotiation. There is no doubt that it is due to Dr. Goepfert’s strategic resource management; understanding of the hospital system; and utilization of her values, principles, strong leadership skills, and courage to lead and advocate for house staff to effect positive change.”

“Dr. Goepfert also excels in professional development for residents and faculty. She not only serves as a leader and mentor but also provides a supportive environment for progression of leadership skills. As DIO, Dr. Goepfert regularly hosts program director meetings centered on leadership skills and discussion of difficult situations, both providing her perspective and facilitating peer mentorship between new and experienced program directors. Additionally, she has organized leadership training for chief residents and gatherings of program coordinators to enable professional growth at each leadership position within GME. All of these initiatives have been extremely favorably reviewed, and are a testament to Dr. Goepfert’s strong values, principles, and leadership. She has accomplished all of these milestones within GME, while providing an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion – highlighted by all programs in the Clinical Learning Environment Review.”