

## 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.



### **Melissa E. Brunsvold, MD, FACS, FCCM**

Program Director for Surgery  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### **Nominators had this to say:**

“Dr. Brunsvold consistently demonstrates a passion for improving surgical education and she has been responsible for key improvements in our educational experience. For example, she facilitated a resident-led restructuring of the curriculum content and delivery for junior residents. She has been a huge proponent of faculty engagement in resident education and has spent countless hours working with faculty to elevate the quality of resident-faculty interactions and feedback. She has been pivotal in establishing SIMPL [system for improving and measuring procedural learning] as the dominant tool for direct feedback, a daunting task given the expanse and variety of our clinical sites. Finally, she worked with the medical device company and our hospital facilities to establish a robotic curriculum spanning the duration of our training and ensuring that all graduates are able to confidently incorporate this into our practice.”

“Dr. Brunsvold has adeptly championed interdisciplinary and interprofessional activities, founding the Research Clearinghouse and integrating a robotics curriculum with obstetrics and gynecology, marked by the significant attainment of the DaVinci certificate for residents. Her meticulous review of hospital patient safety reports has bolstered the quality of care, actively involving trainees in root cause analysis to enhance patient safety. Moreover, Dr. Brunsvold's recent ‘Day in the Life of a Surgery Resident’ event profoundly supported residents’ families, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation for the rigorous medical training journey, further accentuating the human side of health care education.”