

## 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.



### **Laura Minikel, MD, FACOG**

Program Director for Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Kaiser Permanente – Oakland  
Oakland, California

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

“Whether on the L&D floor or in a didactics session, Dr. Minikel creates a learning environment rooted in inquiry that is also safe for all levels of learners. She is an approachable, understanding educator while still maintaining high expectations. Her teaching starts at the bedside, where she regularly exemplifies the principles of humanistic medicine. So much is gained just by watching her masterful patient counseling. Moreover, she has an unparalleled ability to identify and solidify pearls of knowledge, even when clinical demands seem daunting. She is quick to share her own personally created written clinical pearls on a relevant topic or do a team review of an ultrasound.”

“Over the last six years, under Laura’s leadership and vision, our residency embarked on a partnership with our local safety net county hospital system. We did this to expand the residents’ exposure to another hospital system and provide meaningful learning in systems-based practice. Additionally, this partnership affords the residents the opportunity to care for more members of our community and expanded relationships for career mentorship.”

“Dr. Minikel displays a hands-on compassion for each aspect of the resident experience. She reviews every candidate’s application and develops an individualized relationship with each of them. Dr. Minikel frequently opens her home for resident and faculty gatherings and has truly earned the confidence of each resident.”