

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients
For Program Director Excellence 2014



The ACGME is proud to announce the ten recipients of the 2014 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award, which honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents 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* and whose promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers. Congratulations to this year's recipients!



Joseph B. Cofer, MD, FACS

Program Director for General Surgery
The University of Tennessee College of Medicine
Chattanooga, TN

Nominators had this to say:

"In 2003, while President of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society, he was instrumental in starting "Project Access", which is a program for citizens with incomes below the federal poverty level and no other access to insurance. This program has treated over 5,300 patients and provided over \$90 million dollars in free care. Dr. Cofer remains as Chairman of the Project Access Council, demonstrating to the general surgery residents the obligation a physician/surgeon has to the community in systems-based practice improvement efforts.

While APDS President, he was instrumental in forming the first Curriculum Committee and was a member of the initial SCORE Committee, further demonstrating his commitment to resident education and the ACGME core competency medical knowledge. Dr. Cofer's general surgery residency served as a SCORE beta test site prior to its full implementation. On another level, he is a member of the ACGME Milestones Committee and is an integral part in developing the new process of resident evaluation."