

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!



R. Franklin Trimm, III, MD

Program Director for Pediatrics

University of South Alabama College of Medicine

Mobile, AL

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Trimm has always distinguished himself as an outstanding educator among medical students, housestaff and faculty. One of his main local accomplishments as pediatric residency program director has been the development of multiple initiatives leading into growth and modernization of our residency program. These reforms have been a catalyst for similar events within programs across our institution. Due to his vast experience and success as a medical educator he is institutionally recognized as a superb source of advice for graduate medical education. Proof of his success within our institution includes his long standing participation in our GME committee as well as the development and implementation of multiple competency-based curriculum initiatives.”

“Whenever there is a significant or controversial issue related to GME, I turn to Dr. Trimm first for advice. Ever one to “walk around in another's shoes,” he inevitably responds with thoughtful, balanced suggestions that have been carefully pondered, taking into account the concerns and feelings of the individuals on all sides of the issue. Dr. Trimm is a master at leading others to find the all-important “common ground.” The best thing about Dr. Trimm is his jolly zest for life (not to mention his bear hugs when no one else could possibly sense how badly one is needed). Sometimes a loss of this aspect of our approach as educators and leaders seems to be a first subtle symptom of a loss of the “heart and courage” to teach and lead that Parker Palmer so beautifully puts forth in his writings. With his wonderfully dry wit and great sense of humor, Dr. Trimm can diffuse any situation in an instant. It is a sad day when he can't attend one of our GMEC meetings!”