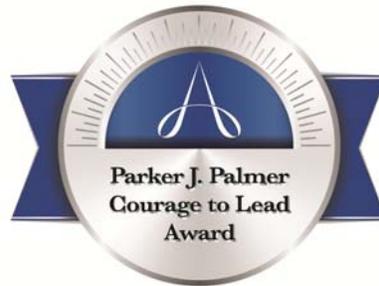


## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency/fellowship programs at their sponsoring institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors such programs. The ACGME congratulates the recipients of the 2018 Courage to Lead Award.



**Karen E. Heiser, PhD**  
Designated Institutional Official  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Columbus, Ohio

**Nominators had this to say:**

“Some of [Dr. Heiser’s] most noteworthy contributions to GME include: taking our hospital from seven ACGME programs in 2002 to 29 currently; the development of objective GME outcome metrics to track program performance and improvement; ensuring that Program Directors, faculty, trainees, and coordinators have GME leadership roles locally and nationally; development of the Fellow & Resident Advisory Committee, allowing expression of trainee's thoughts and concerns; and the development of flexible yet meaningful quality initiatives for trainee and faculty development - processes put in place long before ACGME requirements mandated them.”

“Dr. Heiser has developed a remarkable community of educators at NCH, through her support, commitment and participative leadership style. She has been instrumental in developing our NCH Medical Leadership Program, now in its 14th year of training leaders at NCH to promote our mission in the community and the world. This program has now graduated over 200 leaders, many of whom serve important medical education roles in our institution and elsewhere.”