

## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

### Michael Rhodes, MD

Family Medicine  
Utah Valley, Provo, UT



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

Dr. Rhodes is an exceptional teacher and person. He constantly gives us the bigger philosophical picture of where we as family physicians fit in American medicine. His lectures and his time as our in-patient attending always contain clinical gems. We are the alpha site for the next generation of the electronic medical record or going to Sundance in the winter and Moab in the spring for hands on wilderness medicine are due to his direction and for our great benefit. It is a rare director who has such expertise, such great teaching skills, and knows most if not all the dialogue from Monty Python's "Search for the Holy Grail."

Three framed quotes from ancient and anonymous educators hang in the preceptor room. They read: "Good teachers must believe in the ideas they teach, but they must meet another condition; they must believe in the students to whom they offer their ideas"; "Good teachers hope to give their students so much of their own learning that their students will no longer need them"; and "Good teachers never terrorize their students. To terrorize is to attack, and this results in rejection of what the teacher offers. The result is learning failure." These framed quotes offer guidance to the faculty for ways of "taking heart" and being "at home in a world despite its dangers." In turn, the faculty not only shares clinical wisdom with residents, they also "give heart." This approach to our educational process would not be possible with the dynamic and creative leadership of Dr. Rhodes. His identity and integrity are the embodiment of Parker J. Palmer's "courage to teach" philosophy.