

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 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.



Abby L. Spencer, MD, MS, FACP

Program Director for Internal Medicine
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Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Spencer is an empowering leader who passionately supports the residents. As the program director of one of the largest programs in the country, Dr. Spencer recognizes the importance of knowing each and every resident on her team. She prioritizes both large group and individual meetings with each resident for feedback and coaching. She truly listens to us when we share feedback on what's working and what isn't, even when I'm sure it's hard for her to hear. She welcomes all suggestions and constantly challenges the status quo in an effort to create meaningful changes to practices that do not meet a standard of excellence.”

“Dr. Spencer's leadership position requires much collaboration across the entire system. Further, this has translated into the need to demonstrate immense leadership at the international level, challenging the federal government in support of bringing one of our residents home after visiting her home country and being denied return access due to changing immigration policy. Remarks received from leaders in all levels across the world reflect their learnings from this example of courageous authentic support.”