

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award
for Program Director Excellence



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents/fellows and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. The ACGME congratulates the 2015 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Samuel H. Borden, MD
Program Director for Medicine-Pediatrics
Baystate Medical Center
Springfield, MA

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Borden has led the Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency program at Baystate for nearly 20 years. In that time, he has presided over one of the most highly acclaimed of such programs nationally. He has been recognized for his teaching excellence several times and by several distinct bodies. He has also served in a variety of leadership roles on national medical education committees, including a term as the President of the Medicine/pediatrics Program Director's Association, evidence that he is valued by his peers as well as his charges.”

“Dr. Borden has been an integral contributor to scholarly work related to the broad reach of medical education: integrating ACGME competencies through "milestones"; innovative education models, such as the Baystate "learner- manager-teacher " paradigm; quality and safety using "tracer" work, continuous healing relationships, and patient simulation; and leadership development, evaluation, and reflection through his expertise in behavioral event interviewing. Dr. Borden is a recognized leader in conflict resolution and is a source of expert advice and guidance for residents and faculty in these regards. Based on his longstanding devotion to all aspects of the lives of his trainees and his commitment to valuing the practice of work-life balance, I have asked Dr. Borden to lead develop a novel faculty mentoring program for the Department of Medicine.”