GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award 2012

Nancy Curtiss
Anesthesiology
University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA

Nominators had this to say:

"On many occasions, Nancy has taken it upon herself to ensure that the "education" portion of our residency training is carried out and optimized. For example, when she noticed that several residents were increasingly unable to attend our weekly departmental Grand Rounds due to service obligations, she recommended a change in the policy. Nancy subsequently revised our attendance guidelines and made Grand Rounds a separate required educational activity. She called upon attending faculty to be responsible for assisting with patient care during that time so that all residents would be able to attend without any lapse in care. Nancy then communicated the new strategy in a clear manner to the entire department, including all faculty and support staff at two hospitals. As a result, over this past year, attendance at this vital educational activity improved to over 85%, and the balance between educational activities and service requirements was made more equitable. We as residents have benefited greatly and appreciate having Nancy as someone who truly advocates for our educational opportunities and feel that she is invaluable to our residency program."

"She is adored by the residents and faculty and has the respect of everyone including her coordinator colleagues. She was peer-selected the past two years to serve on the Institutional Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), where she has contributed her insight into issues generic to all coordinators and programs including best practices for accreditation. While these virtues are common virtues shared by many coordinators, Nancy distinguishes herself from other coordinators by her anticipation of, and response, to change. She is not only aware of current requirements, but remains attentive to changes in institutional, common and specialty specific requirements and is the first to create the templates necessary to integrate required changes in program policies and procedures and overall programmatic and rotational specific goals and objectives."