2022-2023 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Josina O'Connell

Dr. Josina O'Connell is an incredible physician and mentor, and I was lucky to have her as my preceptor this year. I first met Dr. O'Connell when she served as a substitute for my COMPASS guide one week during a time that I was looking for a new preceptor, as my former preceptor had started maternity leave. I approached Dr. O'Connell after being impressed with her leadership during the COMPASS small group and asked if she would consider being my preceptor for the remainder of the year. She enthusiastically agreed and immediately began taking the steps necessary to make this happen. Dr. O'Connell was willing to take me on as an additional responsibility amidst her already busy schedule, which shows her dedication to education and her kindness. Dr. O'Connell is a role model in the ways she interacts with patients, other providers, social workers, MAs, clinic receptionists, phlebotomists, etc. at the Montbello Family Health Center. It is obvious that her patients love and respect her deeply. They greet her enthusiastically and trust her with extremely personal information about not only their health, but also their lives. On a day to day basis at clinic, she shows me how to care for patients compassionately and thoughtfully, while also setting boundaries. In a classroom setting, she is a role model for medical students and other COMPASS guides. I always know when she is substituting for a COMPASS guide, because she reliably sits in the front row for the associated H&S lectures and panels that day, and gives the speaker her full attention for the duration of the learning event. Dr. O'Connell is also an outstanding role model for me in demonstrating the way that physicians can commit themselves to improving the health of individual patients and broader communities through her work at Colorado AHEC. She balances clinical responsibilities with directing AHEC and is committed to improving access to healthcare for all Coloradans. Dr. O'Connell is incredibly humble and does not like to be publicly recognized, yet I could not resist nominating her for this award because of my positive experiences working with her this year. I hope you will consider her for the Outstanding Role Model award.

Written by: Katharine Jones

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