2022-2023 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Cason Pierce

I am writing to nominate Dr. Cason Pierce for the award of Outstanding Role Model. Dr. Pierce was an exceptional mentor over this past year and has helped me gain a clearer picture of the type of physician I would like to be. Dr. Pierce's clinical knowledge, compassion for patients, and commitment to educating future physicians makes him a fantastic role model. From my first day working with Dr. Pierce, he demonstrated an unparalleled dedication to his patients that I strive to emulate. Prior to precepting with him, I had never worked in an inpatient setting. With little experience inside the hospital, Dr. Pierce guided me through clinical reasoning and gave valuable advice on patient interviewing. He made learning approachable and throughout my time working with him, I gained confidence in my ability to talk with and relate to patients of many demographics. He incorporated patient families into their care and made them feel like a part of the team. When I would interview patients alone, they expressed how they felt listened to and cared for by Dr. Pierce, which I strive to do one day for my own patients. My clinical reasoning skills also improved as we talked through different diagnoses and he modified and shared improvements to my recommended plans. As I look forward to my LIC year at Denver Health, I know how I plan to show up for my patients and my colleagues by looking to Dr. Pierce as a mentor and role model.

Dr. Pierce approaches teaching with the student in mind and individualizes their education to meet them where they are. I had the privilege of precepting with Dr. Pierce on a variety of different inpatient shifts, allowing me to see the many roles he plays in the hospital. During one small group session for LIC students on heart murmurs, I watched as he involved everyone in active, clinically applied learning. He asked knowledge-appropriate questions of each of us and pushed us to learn more when we didn't know the answer. After the session, we went to visit some of the student's patients that had known heart murmurs. After we listened, he encouraged the students in recommending a plan of care and gave guidance and valuable insight if they missed something. Each student expressed to me how influential Dr. Pierce has been during their LIC year, which echoed my own experience of his passion for patients and teaching. I hope to one day teach future physicians with the same enthusiasm and diligence as Dr. Pierce.

Dr. Pierce's colleagues also recognize his excellence. Each time I was asked by a faculty member who I was precepting with, I was consistently met with the response of how lucky I was to learn from him. I observed how much attendings and residents valued his input or advice in the physician workroom. I indeed felt lucky to work with Dr. Pierce and am grateful for the growth this experience has given me. Having him as a role model and mentor has made a significant impact on how I view my future career as a physician. I look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Pierce during my LIC year at Denver Health.

Written by: Madeline Olson

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