2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Nicholas Breitnauer

To whom it may concern,

Dr. Nicholas Breitnauer, MD, deserves the Golden Stethoscope award for Best Role Model for many reasons which the following words can hardly do justice. From the minute I met Dr. Breitnauer on the first day of my preceptorship, I knew the experience was going to be extremely meaningful in more ways than simply learning how to care for patients. I was tempted to nominate Dr. Breitnauer for the Best Phase 1 Preceptor award, but it is clear to me, and certianly also to anyone he works with or teaches, that his greatness reaches far beyond the ability to teach. As a young woman of color trying to make her way in the field of medicine, I was naturally a little worried about having a male preceptor simply because of the way history has written itself in terms of women and minorities being mistreated in the medical field. This unease disappeared nearly immediately on my first day of preceptorship in Dr. Breitnauer's office. Dr. Breitnauer openly discusses the inequities women in medicine face and treats all of his (majority female) coworkers with a truly admirable level of kindness and monumental level of respect, and this is only one of the seemingly endless things he does that makes him a great role model. The workplace environment he creates is a genuinely enjoyable place to be, not only for me to learn, but for everyone in the office who works alongside him. Dr. Breitnauer actively takes care each day to bring joy to those around him which extends to patients, students, colleagues, and all other clinic staff. He also makes each and every one of his patients feel important, listened to, and truly cared for on a level that extends far beyond medical necessity. It is not uncommon for patients to tell me how excited they are to see him and how much they adore him. He connects to his patients with a level of care and engagement that I, having been in the patient position before, have never experienced. Each visit he conducts is special in its own way. When it comes to Dr. Breitnauer, it seems inherent in his personality to instill confidence in and to encourage others, which I cannot express enough gratitude for as a first year medical student who came in shaking and nervously stuttering on my first day. In just a few short months of precepting with Dr. Breitnauer, I feel very capable when I condict patient interviews and physical exams by myself which is something I genuniely never imagined I would feel until deep into my clinical years of medical school. In all my time shadowing as a premedical student and working closely with physicians while I was an EMT, I have never come across a physician as socially cognizant, caring, encouraging, and genuinely kind as Dr. Breitnauer. I feel incredibly lucky, a word that carries more weight than it sounds, to have the opportunity to have a preceptor who embodies everything I wish to be and more when I "grow up". I cannot imagine a single soul more deserving of this award.

With great respect, gratitude, and the utmost sincerity,

Wyanet Bresnitz

Written by: Wyanet Bresnitz, Phase 1 Medical Student

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