

2014 Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award Winner Volunteer Category

RANDALL GOERING, MD



"As I work with students, I often share some of my philosophy (most of the students listen politely, whether they agree or not!) about the importance of participating with the team efforts in delivering care, while continuing to think for yourself and advocate for your patients' needs. I think it's very important to be aware of one's own limits, and get help when needed. It's helpful to nurture a little historical perspective. I believe we have to stay humble, because a lot of the things we do and believe now will be proven incorrect in the future. And when we are unable to cure, it remains important to continue to care." – words of wisdom from the Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award winner in the volunteer category, Randall Goering, MD.

Randall Goering, MD, a family physician at Via Christi Clinic in Newton, Kan. He has served the community of Newton for the last 20 years and has been in practice for 25 years. During that time, he has regularly taken medical students on their family medicine clerkship. He is currently a volunteer clinical assistant professor at in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Dr. Goering, says, "I became involved in teaching from the time I completed residency. I was an attending for the family practice residencies in Wichita during the time I practiced there. I became involved with precepting medical students shortly after that. Through the years I've been privileged to work with many talented students who have progressed to become fine physicians in family medicine and in many other specialties."

Kansas Paraguay Partners

Dr. Goering talks about a unique experience: "I had the wonderful opportunity to represent the KU Family medicine faculty as part on an ongoing exchange through Kansas Paraguay Partners a couple of years ago. An enlightening experience was attending the National Family Practice meeting in Paraguay (the equivalent of our AAFP), and a conference on family medicine in the Ibero-American countries (Spanish speaking countries including Mexico, Cuba, Spain, and all the South American countries.) Representatives discussed the challenges of delivering primary care and promoting family medicine,

which they believed to be the specialty most equipped to provide the backbone of future medical care in their

mostly underdeveloped countries. They emphasized two things which I believe are important for us in the U.S.: 1) teamwork in care delivery (which we are trying to implement in developing the Patient Centered Medical Home); and 2) the importance of family practitioners as the teachers and models involved in the training of future physicians. I've always felt I have an obligation to help in training future 'generations' of physicians as part of my calling to medicine."

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Rick Kellerman, MD (KUSM-W, Dept. of Family & Community Medicine Chair & Professor) writes: "All of us in the KU School of Medicine - Wichita Department of Family and Community Medicine appreciate Dr. Goering. Two years ago, our department did something a little bit different by deciding to send one of our community volunteer faculty to Paraguay as part of the exchange program. We wanted the Paraguayans to understand that medical education does not just occur in academic 'ivory tower' environments and that quality medical education can occur in private offices and public hospitals. Of over one hundred preceptors, we decided that Dr. Goering was the ideal candidate to carry this message to Paraguay. Dr. Goering was proud to represent our department and

his fellow community volunteer faculty in Paraguay as part of the exchange program. He met with government and medical school leaders, resident physicians, medical students, and community physicians in Paraguay spreading the word about community-based family medicine education. While in Paraguay, he attended the Ibero American Family Medicine Conference that is organized for family physicians in all of Latin America. (This conference is the South American equivalent to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine annual meeting). Rich Roberts, MD, JD, past president of the American Academy of Family Physicians, was in attendance and met Dr. Goering. Later, Dr. Roberts conveyed to me how impressed he was with Dr. Goering's knowledge, demeanor and expertise."

Community Leader

Kellerman shares, "Dr. Goering has been a leader in his community. In 1994, he helped establish a free clinic with one of his partners, Tim Wiens, MD, in Newton. The clinic opened its doors in the evenings for uninsured patients and Dr. Goering and his partner recruited physicians from Newton to help staff the clinic. Subsequently, the clinic has grown and is now a federally qualified health center. I visited the clinic last week and it is inspiring to hear how this busy clinic which is now open 5 days a week with consistent full-time staff germinated from the work of Dr. Goering and his partner."

In addition, Dr. Goering has provided medical care for the homeless. He is medical director of a retirement home. He has been President of his hospital medical staff. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Newton Medical Center. "Dr. Goering has all of the characteristics that all of us in family medicine wish we always demonstrated. He is smart, thoughtful, deferential and humble with a countenance that inspires confidence, trust, and optimism. He is a superb clinical teacher who naturally demonstrates a patient-centered approach to care," writes Kellerman.

Mentees

Jen McKenney, MD writes: "Dr. Goering served as my preceptor when I was a third-year medical student. I am now a family doctor who has been practicing in the rural community of Fredonia, Kan. for the last four years. I still remember two very important lessons I learned from working with Dr. Goering: the importance of the patient-doctor relationship and confidence in taking that next step. Dr. Goering gave me my first opportunity to learn how to build relationships with patients. He taught me the importance of not only being able to present a patient well but to take the next step to form my own ideas on their possible diagnoses and plan of care. Dr. Goering taught me so much in the time I spent with him as a medical student that has been a foundation for my own life as a family doctor."

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*Dr. Hollenbeck will be joining KOC Aug. 1, 2014

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Daniel Dejong, KUSM medical student, writes: "In the end, however, it was not the effort Dr. Goering made to provide an excellent academic education that truly set my time with him apart from other rotations. Nor was it his push to get me in on procedures. It was the many almost unteachable characteristics that come out while working with him. It was the way he knew each one of his patients' stories, not just their diseases. It was the way he treated every patient, every nurse, in fact every person he came in contact with respectfully and with dignity. It was the way he so obviously cared about not only my education, but also my life, my hobbies, my passions and my goals. It was the way he so skillfully and tactfully identified my strengths and weaknesses, and worked to improve both. It wasn't that Dr. Goering cared so much about my education, but that he cared so

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much about me. Consequentially, the educational experience was exceptional."

Dereck Totten, MD Smoky Hill Family Medicine, writes: "Dr. Goering is a teacher who possesses a great deal of kindness, patience, and compassion. However, he sets himself apart from others with his

unparalleled level of dedication to his students, patients, and family. I vividly recall Dr. Goering's interactions with the family of a patient who required extreme measures to live. At no point did he limit his availability to the family or rush a decision on care. Instead, I witnessed a physician who displayed more sympathy for his patient and their family than many other caretakers, combined. To this day, I reflect upon what I had learned from Dr. Goering when I am placed in a similar, difficult situation."

KAFP is pleased to honor Randall Goering, MD (Newton) with his award during the KAFP Annual Meeting on June 6, 2014 at the Member Meeting Lunch. He has also been nominated for the national AAFP Exemplary Teaching Award, to be announced this fall.



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*Source: The Council for Disability Awareness July 3, 2013



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