



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Patricia Fitzgibbons, MD selected as Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award winner

WICHITA, KANSAS – The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) announces **Patricia Fitzgibbons, MD** of Overland Park, Kansas as a 2018 Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award winner. The awards acknowledge KAFP members who deserve recognition of exemplary teaching skills, as well as individuals who have implemented outstanding educational programs and/or developed innovative teaching models. This award is presented in two different categories: Full-time faculty and Volunteer faculty. Dr. Fitzgibbons is the winner in the full-time category. She is a clinical practitioner and faculty preceptor at University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City. She has been a faculty member at KU School of Medicine, Kansas City, for 13 years.

Dr. Fitzgibbons will be honored at the KAFP Annual Meeting on June 15, 2018 at the Overland Park Marriott, Overland Park, Kansas during the Lunch, Awards & Recognition. She has been nominated for the national American Academy of Family Physicians Exemplary Teaching Award, to be announced in the fall.

Dr. Fitzgibbons is an academic honors undergraduate of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri and Pre-med graduate of Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. She received her medical degree from University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska. She completed her family medicine residency at University of Nebraska Medical Center, Family Practice Residency, Omaha, Nebraska. She is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She is the recipient of the KU and “Student Voice” Award (2008, 2009, 2010).

Here are selected quotes about Dr. Fitzgibbons:

“Dr. Fitzgibbons excels at teaching at every level. I first interacted with her as a student in our inter-professional teaching clinic. She fostered an environment of shared learning in which students from one discipline were encouraged to help answer questions from the other disciplines. She always encourages self-directed investigation and curiosity. She gives immediate feedback, focusing on the positive and giving suggestions to improve anything negative. Dr. Fitzgibbons goes above the basic expectation of teaching medical concepts and helps us to learn the intricacies of communicating with patients. All of her patients rave about her and the individualized way she treats each of them.”

– Kylie Rhodes, MD (PGY-3, Chief Resident, University of Kansas School of Medicine)

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“I first met Dr. Fitzgibbons when I arrived in the Department of Family Medicine as a first year resident and she helped to shape me into the successful physician that I have become. She asks students to question their assumptions and explain their answers, leading to a greater depth of learning. While Dr. Fitzgibbons pushes learners to excel, she does this in a caring and supportive way that allows learners to expand their knowledge and blossom. Everyone in the clinic knows that she has a snack drawer available for those days you miss lunch and she is always available to listen when you've had a difficult day.” – Hannah Maxfield, MD (Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Clerkship Director, Director of Medical Education, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City)

*“She thinks of herself primarily as a teacher and has learners with her almost all of the time. She sees patients with the students in the inter-professional student clinic, where she works with medical students as well as pharmacy, social work, and physical and occupational therapy students. She regularly precepts in the resident clinic, and she teaches during her own clinics, which include two refugee clinics. If she doesn't have a student in her clinic, then she seeks out other students in the clinic every time she has an interesting case. This dedication to her craft is not overlooked by the students. She has consistently won Student Voice Teaching Awards throughout her time at KU.”
– Belinda Vail, MD (Professor and Chair, KU School of Medicine, Kansas City, Department of Family Medicine)*

About the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

Founded in 1948, the KAFP represents 1,730 physicians and medical students statewide. It is the only medical society in Kansas devoted solely to primary care. A family physician takes care of the whole family, all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity. Research has proven that people with access to primary care have better health outcomes than those who do not. In Kansas, approximately one-half of family physicians practice in non-metropolitan areas. Over 25 percent treat uninsured patients, especially children and families receiving public assistance. The mission of the KAFP is to support and serve family physicians of Kansas as they advance the health of Kansans. For more information visit the KAFP website at www.kafponline.org.

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