

**Award: Distinguished Mid-Career Award Application :  
Entry # 18640****I am nominating:**

A colleague

**Basic Information****Your Name**

Kelsey Tieken MD

**Your Title:**

Surgical Resident

**Your Institution**

University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Your Email**[kelsey.tieken@unmc.edu](mailto:kelsey.tieken@unmc.edu)**Nominee Information****Name of Nominee:**

Abbey Fingeret

**Nominee's institution:**

University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Nominee's Title:**

Associate Professor

**Nominee's email address**[abbey.fingeret@unmc.edu](mailto:abbey.fingeret@unmc.edu)**Short Essays****Please describe the nominee's approach to teaching (their personal philosophy of teaching).**

Observing a learner progress from naivety to mastery of a concept or skill is the most rewarding aspect of teaching. This journey takes many different paths at variable speeds – and can be impacted by the enthusiasm and dedication of both teacher and student. My educational philosophy encompasses this process – with an integrated focus on climate, scholarship, and mutual feedback. Fundamentally I believe that a teacher's primary responsibility is to exhibit enthusiasm – both for the subject matter and the charge. A curious and impassioned teacher can motivate the learner in a profound and enduring manner. This impact is evident when you consider that each of us can recall influential instructors – even from decades prior – with great clarity and fondness. In surgery, the climate is often overlooked as an essential element of education. A dedicated teacher who creates a welcoming, stimulating, and productive environment will encourage learners to establish life-long practice patterns.

The task of teaching is much more than conveying previously unknown information to a subject – it requires an assessment of the learner's current understanding, goals, and objectives. On this scaffolding, an exchange of ideas can occur. I emphasize to

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students that committing to a response with reasonable evidence to defend their choice is a powerful, though distressing, essential part of the process.

As an academic surgeon I consider it my mission to innovate, initiate, critically evaluate, revise and sustain educational programming and curricula that meet the needs of the learner. I am committed to evolving medical education both through the implementation of these enterprises as well as their systematic appraisal and quality improvement.

**Please describe something the nominee learned as a result of one of the educational development programs (such as the annual Surgical Education Week, Surgeons as Educators, or other programs) that they have attended that has changed the way they teach.**

As a graduate of the ASE Surgical Education Research Fellowship in 2013 I learned the value of educational research design and collaboration. With my SERF class providing guidance and feedback I learned how to refine a vague idea for a research project in to a well defined research question with appropriate methodology. From this experience I learned the value of mentorship and feedback from my SERF mentor Mary Ann Hopkins as well as my SERF peers. I remain close with Dr. Hopkins and my SERF cohort to this day and continue to collaborate with them on curricular development and educational research.

**Please describe the nominee's scholarly work in surgical education including: teaching activities, curricular development, evaluation and assessment innovations, research, etc.**

Dr. Fingeret is recognized as a master educator, at the local, regional, and national level. She serves on a number of curriculum committees for UNMC and for various surgical education organizations, in many of which she has held various leadership roles. She developed multiple new and innovative courses at UNMC including, but not limited to, a Surgical Residency Preparatory Course for our fourth-year medical students applying for surgical specialties, which was so successful it was then converted to a Residency Preparatory Course for all fourth year students. During development of the latter, the pandemic hit and the development team was forced to rapidly convert the curriculum to a solely virtual learning environment. Despite this, the course was highly successful, as was the full interactive and simulation- based curriculum that was then implemented for the COM graduating class of 2021. She has also developed a longitudinal lecture series about residents as educators and leaders. She is actively involved in surgical education research projects at UNMC and is a graduate of and an advisor for the Surgical Education Research Fellowship. In addition, after completing a Master's degree in healthcare education, she is now pursuing a PhD in the same. She is highly committed to not only the continued pursuit of her own education, but to education and research on an individual, local and national level.

**Please describe a rewarding relationship the nominee had with a mentee including what they worked on and why it was gratifying.**

As a former graduate of the SERF program it has been my privilege and honor to reciprocate the exceptional mentorship I received in the program. I have been a SERF mentor since 2017 and a SELF mentor since the inaugural class. Aiding my mentees in designing and executing education research has been a highly rewarding aspect of my career thus far. I have learned that each mentee requires a different approach and varying guidance to develop their skills as a researcher. I have learned about myself in the process – refining my approach from more active guidance to more mentee-directed coaching. I have experience great pride when my mentees complete their projects and gain their own SERF certificates – Jennifer Preston, Kelsey Koch, Kirsten Jogerst, and Natasha Keric.

**Additional Information****Please list the education leadership roles (eg, program director, skills lab director, etc) that the nominee has or has had within their own institution.**

Surgery Interest Group Faculty Advisor  
Course Director for Fourth Year Surgery Electives  
Course Director for Surgery Residency Preparatory Course  
Founder and Director: Clinical Educator Enhanced Medical Education Track

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College of Medicine Curriculum Committee: Vice Chair, Outcomes Subcommittee Chair  
 Course Director for College of Medicine Residency Preparatory Course  
 College of Medicine Surgery Career Specialty Track (CST) Director for Phase 3 Students  
 Faculty Facilitator: Impact of Infectious Disease (IID) Course  
 Co-Director: Summer Undergraduate Research Program: Students on Professional Development  
 Co-chair of the Self Study Task Force for recent LCME site visit  
 Director: Interprofessional Education Coil

**Please list the educational leadership roles (chair or co-chair of a committee, other formal leadership title) the nominee has or has had in any national and international education-related organizations.**

ASE: Assessment Curriculum and Evaluations Committee: Vice Chair and Chair  
 ASE: Surgical Education Research Fellowship Advisor  
 ASE: Surgical Education Leadership Fellowship Advisor  
 AAMC: Liason- Group of Educational Affairs

**Please list any education awards or honors that the nominee has received.**

-University of Nebraska Medical Center Impact in Education for Innovative Practices in Education Award  
 -University of Nebraska Medical Center iExcel Academic Innovation Award  
 -University of Nebraska Medical Center iExcel Collaborative Interprofessional Education Award  
 -University of Nebraska Medical Center Digital E-Learning Showcase Best Multimedia Module  
 -University of Nebraska Medical Center iExcel Academic Innovation Award – Honorable Mention  
 -University of Nebraska Medical Center Interprofessional Academy of Educators Innovative Practices in Education Award – Honorable Mention  
 -Association for Surgical Education Linnea Hauge Promising Educational Scholar Award  
 -American College of Surgeons Resident Award for Exemplary Teaching National Finalist  
 -Association for Surgical Education Outstanding Resident Teacher Award  
 -Columbia University College of Physician and Surgeons Mentor of the Year

**File uploads:**

**CV**

- [Fingeret-CV-rev-8.28.22.pdf](#)

**Please upload a letter of nomination by a resident, faculty, education administrator, or anyone else with knowledge of the nominee's teaching and educational scholarship.**

- [ASE-Nomination-Letter.pdf](#)

**Please upload no more than 2 letter(s) of support from leaders in education-related national/international organizations to demonstrate nominee's impact on surgical education.**

- [ASE-award-Mercer-LOR-2022.pdf](#)

**Please upload no more than 2 letter(s) of support from individuals mentored by the nominee.**

- [Fingeret-nomination-letter-Mentee.pdf](#)

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Please upload documentation of teaching excellence in the form of an aggregate evaluation report (from MedHub, New Innovations, etc) from learners over the past 6 - 12 months.

- [Fingeret-Evaluations.pdf](#)