

**Award: Distinguished Master Educator Award : Entry # 18630****Basic Information****Name**

Maura Sullivan PhD

**Your title:**

Associate Dean of Simulation Education, Vice Chair for Education

**Your institution:**

Keck School of Medicine USC

**Email**[mesulliv@med.usc.edu](mailto:mesulliv@med.usc.edu)**Name of nominee:**

Laura Torbeck

**Nominee's institution:**

Indiana University

**Nominee's title:**

Associate Dean for Professional Development, Vice Chair for Professional Development

**Nominee's email address:**

ltorbeck@iupui.edu

**Short Essays****Please describe the nominee's approach to teaching (their personal philosophy of teaching).**

Dr. Torbeck's philosophy of teaching has evolved over the years with each new role. When she was an anatomy instructor, her approach to teaching was to start with the basics. Once the foundation was laid and Dr. Torbeck could gauge that students had a good understanding of the basics, she felt more comfortable relying on their adult learning skills to learn the details and intricacies of science education while she would focus on bringing clinical relevance to the material in a creative way.

As Dr. Torbeck began to function more as an administrator, her philosophy of teaching morphed into thinking more about a philosophy of learning for students, residents, and faculty who don't have an abundance of protected time devoted to formal education. Dr. Torbeck's overarching goal related to teaching has been aimed at ensuring clinical faculty educate students and trainees formally and informally to become competent physicians who can practice independently at graduation time. Within this goal, Dr. Torbeck encourages faculty to keep in mind the developmental nature of the training process and recognize that not every learner develops at the same rate. For students and trainees, her overarching goal has been aimed at encouraging learners to take advantage of the formal and informal educational activities made available to them and strive to maintain their high level of intrinsic motivation to become an excellent physician.

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

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The interplay between faculty guidance and promoting resident autonomy in the OR became a keen area of interest of Dr. Torbeck's and for that reason she focused a portion of her research efforts on understanding how much guidance is given in the OR from both a resident perspective and a faculty perspective as well as identifying the behaviors that can promote resident autonomy. Her work in this area led to a podium presentation at the Central Surgical Association meeting as well as three publications in the journal, Surgery.

Additionally, this work has influenced some of the research that the SIMPL collaborative group has generated, not to mention an Annals of Surgery 2017 systematic review on intraoperative teaching by Timberlake et al. Dr. Torbeck used the findings from her work to enrich her peer assessment debriefing sessions that she has with faculty after observing their OR teaching performances. Perhaps Dr. Torbeck's most significant accomplishment in surgery has been the development of a Professional Development program. Her overall development program was published in The Journal of Surgical Education, followed by scholarly work describing individual programs including Leaders Growing Leaders, APP Integration, and Peer Review of Teaching.

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

Through networking during an ASE meeting, Dr. Torbeck was introduced to a surgeon from another institution who was recently appointed their first Vice Chair of Education. During their initial conversation, Dr. Torbeck gave this new VC some tips and tricks she had learned over the years as Indiana University's first Vice Chair of Education and told her if she needed any guidance or a sounding board, to feel free to contact her. The new VC ended up reaching out to Dr. Torbeck and a virtual mentoring relationship began. Dr. Torbeck helped the new VC define her role, identify needed staff and a reporting structure, devise a budget, create buy-in among her colleagues, and most importantly create a leadership presence for herself. Within 6 months of taking the role, the new VC decided to have an Education Retreat for her division and asked Dr. Torbeck to serve as a Visiting Professor for the day to both present and help facilitate the session. The mentee relationship that Dr. Torbeck had with the new VC was most gratifying when she witnessed the innate leadership skill the new VC had as she executed the retreat and the rapid successes the new VC went on to achieve. Dr. Torbeck continues to be the new VC's biggest champion!

### **Additional Information**

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

##### Present:

- Chair of Adjunct Faculty Advisory Committee, Indiana University School of Medicine, 2021-present
- Vice Chair of Professional Development/Diversity/Wellness – Surgery (PDDW-Surgery), Department of Surgery, Indiana University, 2019-present
- Co-Chair of Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (LAMP), Indiana University School of Medicine, 2017-present
- Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development (FAPD), Office of the Dean, Indiana University Medical School, 2016-present
- Vice Chair of Professional Development, Department of Surgery, Indiana University, 2016-present

##### Past:

- Co-Chair of Faculty Development Coordinating Committee (FDCC), Indiana University School of Medicine, 2017-2020
- Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2018-2021
- Vice Chair of Education, Department of Surgery, Indiana University, 2006-2016
- Surgical Educator, Department of Surgery, Indiana University, 2004-present
- Director of Research in Medical Education, Department of Family Medicine, University of Kentucky, 2003-2004

#### **Please list the educational leadership and administration 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.**

##### Association of Surgical Education

- Director of Surgery Education and Leadership Fellowship (SELF), 2021-present

**Award: Distinguished Master Educator Award : Entry # 18630**

- Chair of Awards Committee, 2020
- Vice Chair of Awards Committee, 2019
- Chair of Education Research Committee, 2016
- Vice Chair of Education Research Committee, 2014-2016
- Education Scientist Liaison, 2014-present

American College of Surgeons

\* AEI Faculty Development Committee

**Please list the nominee's participation with education journals (as either a peer reviewer or editorial board member).**

Editorial Board Member:

- Surgery Open Science, 2020 to present
- Global Surgical Education: Journal of the Association Journal for Surgical Education, 2021 to present

Peer Reviewer:

- Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer for JAMA Surgery, 2016 to present
- Peer Reviewer for the Journal of Surgical Education, 2010 to 2021
- Peer Reviewer for American Journal of Surgery, 2010 to present
- Peer reviewer for Teaching and Learning in Medicine Journal, 2009-2010
- Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer for Annals of Surgery Journal, 2006 to present
- Peer Reviewer for Medical Education Online Journal, 2004 to present

**Please list any recognition by a national society for major accomplishment(s) in education.**

ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators, Affiliate Member, 2019-present

**Please list any further training in education through courses, faculty development, degree/certificate programs, and educational fellowship programs. Finally, please describe something the nominee learned as a result of their further training in education that has changed the way they teach or impacted educational scholarship.**

Although not as a participant, Dr. Torbeck became the Director of SELF, was a founding member of the SIMPL collaborative, co-presents a myriad of professional development sessions at IU, and works for a professional coaching firm. Due to this involvement, she has had the opportunity to listen and learn from other presenters and always brings something home to her department and institution.

A few specific examples (but not limited to) include: integrating education technology (Roy Phityakorn in SELF), Zwisch scale and operative autonomy vs. guidance (SIMPL), peer review of teaching (IU FAPD faculty development session), 5 disfunctions of a team (executive coaching session).

**File uploads:**

**Please upload the nominee's CV.**

- [LT-Prof-CV-2022.pdf](#)

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

- [Nomination-Letter-For-Laura-Torbeck-MES.pdf](#)

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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.

- [LOS.pdf](#)

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

- [LOS-mentee.pdf](#)

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. (file upload)

- [Evals-combined.pdf](#)