

2026 Michigan Family Medicine Educator of the Year — Dr. Eleanor King

The Michigan Family Medicine Educator of the Year Award honors a physician who has made outstanding contributions to family medicine education in Michigan. Great educators shape how future physicians think, practice, and lead by challenging learners, fostering growth, and modeling excellence and humanity. This year, we are proud to recognize **Eleanor King, MD, FAAFP**.

Dr. King serves as program director for the Wayne State University School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency and as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences. In those roles, she has helped build a residency program that emphasizes strong clinical training, meaningful community engagement, and the development of compassionate, well-rounded family physicians.

One of her most impactful contributions has been integrating community agencies directly into residency education through a structured outreach program. By creating partnerships with local organizations and building those experiences into training, Dr. King has helped residents better understand how to provide culturally competent, community-centered care. In doing so, she has strengthened not only the educational experience for learners, but also the residency program's connection to the community it serves.

Her leadership has also reflected a clear understanding that medical education is about more than knowledge and skill alone. Recognizing the emotional demands of medical training, Dr. King established a wellness program that gives residents space to process stress, build resilience, and support one another.

Just as important as the curriculum she has built is the example she sets every day.

Those who work with Dr. King describe someone whose clinical excellence, work ethic, and professionalism are matched by kindness, humility, and balance. She is the kind of leader who raises the standard around her. For residents and students, she has become not only a teacher, but a model of what a meaningful and sustainable career in medicine can look like.

Her accomplishments have earned repeated recognition, including multiple Wayne State University School of Medicine Faculty Teaching Awards, Teacher of the Year honors from the Wayne State University Family Medicine Residency, and induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 2024. But perhaps the clearest measure of her impact is the influence she has had on the many residents, students, and colleagues whose growth she has shaped.

Dr. King is the kind of educator every residency program hopes to have—and the kind of physician whose influence will continue to be felt through every learner she has helped prepare.