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Department of Psychiatry  
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January 22, 2019

MCW Community Engagement Awards Committee  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
8701 Watertown Plank Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Re: Nomination of Dr. Robert Gouthro for the MCW President's Community Engagement Award

Dear MCW President's Community Engagement Award Committee:

I am nominating Dr. Rob Gouthro for the MCW 2019 President's Community Engagement Award to honor the incredible collaborative leadership and community engagement he has undertaken as our inaugural Residency Program Director for MCW's Northeastern Wisconsin (NEW) Psychiatry Residency. Dr. Gouthro is a 2007 graduate from MCW and completed his general psychiatry residency at MCW in 2011. He was our chief resident the final year of his residency. After completing his residency, Dr. Gouthro moved to Green Bay to raise his family and to practice psychiatry in that community. He has been involved with helping develop MCW's regional campuses in Wausau and Green Bay since they opened and was an integral part in the development of the NEW psychiatry residency.

Robert Gouthro, MD is a practicing psychiatrist who cares for veterans at the Milo C. Huempfer VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Green Bay. He serves as MCW-Green Bay's Director of Residency Training for the NEW Psychiatry Program and is an Assistant Professor and the Regional Clerkship Director for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine. Since beginning as the residency training director, Dr. Gouthro has made the program a critical part of the community. He has done this by connecting with the community and educating them about the shortage of access to mental health care across the region, and about the importance of a new regional residency program and its potential impact. Dr. Gouthro has built the residency through robust community engagement. As psychiatry financially is a loss leader, no one system can afford to provide the finances to host an entire training program. Dr. Gouthro had to engage multiple affiliate partners across the northeast Wisconsin community. This included Brown County, Bellin Health, Aurora in Green Bay, Winnebago Mental Health Institute and the Wisconsin Resource Center in Oshkosh, and Native American clinics in the region as well. For the residency's opening event, five regional state legislators and Green Bay's Mayor showed up to celebrate the opening of the residency. Even though Dr. Gouthro had much on his plate, he took on the Clerkship Director role as well because he was best positioned in the community to connect MCW Green Bay medical students to psychiatrists across the northeast Wisconsin community.

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The NEW Psychiatry Residency Program instills the knowledge and ability needed to care for the mental health needs of people in rural areas and beyond. Research shows that there is a 60-70 percent chance residents will continue to practice in the community where they have trained. If that percentage of psychiatry residents remain in the Green Bay area each year after completing training, the NEW program will make a significant difference in addressing the shortage of psychiatrists in northern Wisconsin over the next decade. The first two cohorts of residents were filled in 2017 and 2018, bringing a total of eight physicians in psychiatry training to the region to date. This number will be 16 in 2020 when the program is fully enrolled.

Dr. Gouthro cares deeply about his community. In recognition of the importance of wellness in all aspects of life and in all physician specialties, Dr. Rob Gouthro recently established the Gouthro Award for the Promotion of Mental Wellness this year. The award is presented annually to a graduating MCW-Green Bay student who, throughout his or her education, has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the promotion of mental wellness in his or her peers or the community.

Dr. Gouthro also has shown a commitment to the Veteran community. By choosing to work at the Milo Huempfer VA, he shows his commitment to helping this very deserving population. Dr. Gouthro could work in private practice, but instead has chosen to serve the Veteran community in Northeast Wisconsin.

Finally, Dr. Gouthro's community-mindedness and engagement really shine through in this work. Through his leadership and guidance, MCW-Green Bay psychiatry residents and medical students are developing an additional mental health service for the underserved populations in northeastern Wisconsin - the Northeastern Wisconsin Psychiatry Care Center. This nonprofit organization is set to open in 2019 and will train tomorrow's providers, care for those in need and enhance the mental well-being of all community members. By providing free mental health care, this initiative will improve access to critical services for some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

In summary, Rob Gouthro MD has been a community engagement star. Dr. Gouthro's commitment and dedication to serving and caring for the Veteran population should be appreciated and considered. In addition, his successfully leading the continued development of our NEW Psychiatry Residency, coordinating the clerkship experiences for MCW Green Bay, and developing a "free" mental health clinic for the uninsured and underserved, which is such a vulnerable population, embodies MCW's Community Engagement mission and what the MCW President's Community Engagement Award was created to acknowledge and reward. Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,



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