

FACULTY EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS IN TEACHING



Wendy Armenta, MD, an assistant professor of Psychiatry at Upstate Medical University, is the **December 2024** recipient of the **Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition**.

COMMENTS FROM DR. ARMENTA'S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Armenta is special and irreplaceable. As I come to the end of my third year in medical school, I can confidently say that I have never met a physician as talented in establishing a therapeutic alliance with patients as Dr. Armenta. I personally witnessed her establish a superior level of trust with patients in the depths of psychosis, depression, and substance use. Her success clearly comes not only from her intelligence and interview skills, but from the fact that she truly cares. One example of this that I saw was when she went across the hospital to check up on a patient that had already been discharged from our inpatient unit to the medicine floor. She treats her patients as she would treat her own family, and if I had a family member who needed psychiatric care, I would call her.”

“Dr. Armenta was a wizard in my mind when it came to analyzing the personality traits that a patient had and underlying symptomatology that I was not catching myself. I am extremely impressed with her abilities to diagnose and treat patients. Dr. Armenta took so much time throughout her day to sit with medical students and residents to review updated literature as well as subjective measures on diagnoses and treatments for certain disorders. She made my first experience with psychiatry such an enjoyable time and made me seriously consider this as a specialty.”

The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching” program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.