

## **STSA Inspiration Award Nominations**

To nominate someone for the STSA Inspiration Award, please submit your nomination in writing by September 1, 2009 to be considered for possible presentation at the 2009 STSA Annual Meeting. Recommendation letters should outline the specific merits of the nominee and his or her positive influences for the 'mentee(s).' The recipient must be a member of the STSA in good standing. The award will be given at the discretion of the President in consultation with the Council.

Nominations can be mailed to:

Michael Mack, MD

President, Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

633 N. Saint Clair St., Suite 2320

Chicago, IL 60611

**The STSA Inspiration Award** was established in 2007 to recognize the important contribution of mentorship to the specialty and the organization, and to encourage upcoming generations of CT surgeons by helping to cultivate mentors worthy of emulation.

The future of cardiothoracic surgery is in the hands and hearts of its medical students and residents. Inspiring a resident or medical student to become a CT surgeon - to become a great CT surgeon - is among the most far-reaching and important contributions one can make to the specialty and ultimately to the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association.

The residency program directors and faculty at teaching programs affiliated with the STSA are developing and inspiring future cardiothoracic surgeons every day -- teaching them to become leaders in their future institutions, practices, and communities. And mentorship is not limited to program directors and faculty. Surgeons in private practice hire young graduates and become influential mentors providing career guidance and support often for years to come.

To acknowledge the crucial importance of mentorship in developing CT surgeons and to recognize and positively reinforce STSA members who have excelled in their mentorship roles, STSA established its Inspiration Award in 2007. The Inspiration Award is given to the STSA member who has demonstrated exceptional efforts in motivating, inspiring, and cultivating the clinical and research talents of medical students, residents and/or early career CT surgeons.