The 2015 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Dance Teacher of the Year Award is Leslie Zeelika Pieters. Leslie earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Hofstra University, her Master of Science Degree from Queens College and her Certificate of Advanced Study from the College of St. Rose. She has been a health and physical education teacher for sixteen years, currently teaching in the Roosevelt Union Free School District. Dance education as a significant portion of Leslie’s Physical Education Curriculum. Personal health and fitness is a top priority along with creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment. Leslie is committed to an organic teaching style that is vibrant and innovative where she creates a classroom that engages, empowers and connects her students. Leslie can be seen dancing with her students as they enter the gymnasium. This motivating climate has allowed her to successfully implement a number of cultural dance units. She is very active on the Nassau Zone Board and at the state level Leslie is currently the Dance Section President and program planner. She is also the chair of the newly formed Diversity Committee. Leslie presents dance sessions annually at Zone Conferences and the NYS AHPERD Conference. She has published dance articles and has also had an article on National Standards for Physical Education published in Strategies. She has been the facilitator of several successful grant applications receiving over $100,000 to combat childhood obesity. A colleague said, “Ms. Pieters is high energy and can always be counted on the go above and beyond the call duty. Music and dance are a wonderful component of our physical education curriculum because of Ms. Pieters”. President James, it is my honor to present to you the recipient of the 2015 Dance Education Teacher of the Year Award, Leslie Zeelika Pieters.