The 2016 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Dance Teacher of the Year Award is Michelle Denino Gordon. Michelle is a dance teacher in the Bay Shore School District where she has taught for the past 17 years. She teaches dance classes, performance dance classes and an International Baccalaureate dance class. Michelle has high expectations in the classroom in regards to communication and interaction among all her students. She has an empathetic approach to behavior management with “seek first to understand” at its core. Her students learn skills and concepts that will help them value dance as a way to stay healthy and fit for a lifetime. Michelle is an active member of the Suffolk Zone serving as the Dance Section Vice President. She is a past Dance Section president and program planner and has presented at Zone and state conferences. Michelle was honored with the Dance Section Amazing Person Award. Michelle’s director said, “Her enthusiasm for teaching dance inspires her students to learn and attempt difficult skills and routines resulting in students exceeding their expectations.” Her coordinator said, “Michelle is patient and nurturing at all times with her students and is always willing to go the extra mile, so her students have the opportunity to explore dance to the fullest extent. She is a model for all teachers in the way she always strives to improve her practice and her knowledge and in the way she creates a student-centered learning environment in her dance studio.” President Rose, it is my honor to present to you the recipient of the 2016 Dance Teacher of the Year Award, Michelle Denino Gordon.