The 2019 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Award of Distinction for a School Leader is Ron Whitcomb.

Ron was the director of health, physical education and athletics at Victor Central Schools for 26 years. Throughout the years, he was a devoted advocate for the promotion and implementation of the NYS Learning Standards for health and physical education. Ron was instrumental in the writing of a K-12 sequential curriculum, with full assessments established for physical education. His passion and commitment was to see physical education teachers delivering content, teaching to the standards, and building a program valued by parents, the community, principals and Board of Education. Ron had the support of the Board of Education as they approved the grade earned in physical education at the high school level would be part of the students’ overall grade point average. In his leadership role, he created a nationally recognized physical education program and ensured continuity by providing new teachers extensive training on how to use the district’s curriculum. Ron served NYS AHPERD in numerous capacities, including president of the Association, Central Western Zone president and treasurer, and currently serves as president of the Council of Administrators Section. He has received many professional awards and has been honored with the NYS AHPERD Professional of the Year Award, Central Western Zone Amazing Person Award, and the COA Ellis Champlin Memorial Award. His colleague stated, “Ron had a powerful vision and knew how to achieve it. As a result, he guided the Victor physical education program to the top of the mountain, and guided the Victor athletic program to be one of the best in the state. Ron held all who worked for him to a very high standard and yet never expected any of his teachers or coaches to work harder than he was willing to work himself.” It is a privilege to present the recipient of the 2019 Award of Distinction for a School Leader, Ronald Whitcomb.