The 2019 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Professional of the Year Award is Rhonda Clements, Ed.D.

Rhonda earned her bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Maine, and a second master’s and doctorate degree from Columbia University. For 14 years, she has been the director of the Master of Arts in Teaching Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy program at Manhattanville College. Rhonda has authored or edited 11 books in the area of movement, play, and game activities for children. She has also written more than 45 articles and 10 book chapters concerning the need for physical activity for preschool and elementary school age children. Rhonda has presented at 67 international or national conferences, and over 26 state and 40 local conferences. She is currently serving on SHAPE America’s Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee to further the understanding of needs related to urban physical education; and recently served on the SHAPE America Committee creating a booklet supporting physical literacy for preschool children; and she served on the editorial board for the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. In service to NYS AHPERD, Rhonda is very proud of serving on the Nassau Zone board for 17 years, on the Southeastern Zone board for 14 years, and actively volunteers at numerous conferences for both Zones. She is a member of the NYS Professional Preparation Council for Physical Education. Her colleagues wrote, “Rhonda is the ultimate educator and consummate professional who is always ready to help another person regardless of her own personal expense of time and energy. This educator’s heart is not guided by a clock. She is a creative thinker when it comes to pedagogy, a true pioneer in the field of movement education, an incredible mentor to all aspiring teachers, extremely dependable, and incredibly hard-working. Beyond that, she has an unparalleled knowledge of the history and values of physical education.” It is an honor to present the recipient of the 2019 Professional of the Year Award, Dr. Rhonda Clements.