The 2019 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award is Eric Kohl.

Eric is an adapted physical education teacher at Monroe 1 BOCES in Rochester. He works with a population of students who have significant mental health needs, autism and severe learning disabilities. Eric believes the NYS Learning Standards are critical in his approach to planning and teaching. His classroom promotes a positive, safe, healthy and nurturing environment. Many of his students have difficulty interacting with their peers during activities; therefore, Eric creates games that focus on skill development and requires cooperation of the whole class to accomplish a goal. Eric is the Special Olympics track and field coach and coordinator, and coaches youth wrestling. He has been actively involved in NYS AHPERD as past president of the Recreation/Adventure Education Section. In service to the Central Western Zone, Eric is the Zone president-elect and the Adapted Physical Education Section representative. He has been involved in conference planning at both the state and zone level, served as a writer on the physical education grading guidelines committee and the Next Generation Learning Standards Committee. Eric has been honored to receive the Adapted Physical Education & Sports Section Amazing Person Award and the Monroe 1 BOCES Blue Apple Award. A colleague wrote, “Eric works tirelessly to ensure that students are challenged to reach their true potential, while taking into account the social-emotional growth of his students with special needs. The way he presents the skills and strategies needed for a variety of physical activities enables students to develop skills necessary to be competitive in sports and games. Eric is an exceptional educator, not just in the realm of physical education but as a truly inspirational leader for the teaching community.” It is an honor to present the recipient of the 2019 Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award, Eric Kohl.