The 2019 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Secondary Health Education Teacher of the Year Award is Ashleigh Barnhart-Burto.

Ashleigh is a health education teacher, district health coordinator, athletic coordinator, and an elementary physical education teacher at Belleville Henderson Central School District. She uses the NYS guidance document for effective lesson planning, focusing on skills and functional knowledge. Ashleigh believes having her students learn the curriculum is crucial; however, having students practice how to make good decisions and informed choices is critical. She uses technology to enrich her program, through Chromebooks and Google Classroom.

Chromebooks are used for both individual and group projects, while Google Classroom is utilized as a platform to submit assignments, share information and have group discussions. Ashleigh personally embodies a healthy lifestyle and references it throughout her curriculum by integrating discussions about eating healthy, exercising, and the benefits of running. As health coordinator for the district, she leads monthly Health and Wellness Committee meetings and has coordinated the Health & Wellness Fair. Ashleigh is a member of the Central North Zone and was honored to receive the Zone’s Cheri Stevens Award and the Secondary Health Education Teacher of the Year Award. She has been inducted into the Alfred State College Athletic Hall of Fame. Her principal wrote, “Ashleigh is an outstanding educator and she has a strong ability to interact with students, who feel free to turn to her for guidance. Many parents remark on the positive impact she has on their children. Students tend to live up to the high expectations set forth by Ashleigh, simply because of her ability to teach.” It is an honor to present the recipient of the 2019 Secondary Health Education Teacher of the Year Award, Ashleigh Barnhart-Burto.