The 2014 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Bernard E. Hughes Award is Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Senator Gillibrand is a magna cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, she went on to receive her law degree from the UCLA School of Law and served as a law clerk on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. After working as an attorney in New York City for more than a decade, Senator Gillibrand served as Special Counsel to United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Andrew Cuomo during the Clinton Administration. She then worked as an attorney in Upstate New York before becoming a member of Congress. Kirsten Gillibrand was first sworn in as United States Senator from New York in January 2009. In November 2012, Senator Gillibrand was elected to her first six-year Senate term with a historic 72 percent of the vote, winning 60 of New York’s 62 counties. Prior to her service in the Senate, she served in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New York’s 20th Congressional District, which spanned 10 counties in upstate New York. Throughout her time in Congress, Senator Gillibrand has been committed to open and honest government. Last April she was named one of Time Magazine’s “100 Most Influential People In The World” in honor of her ability to work across the aisle and elevate the issues that are important to her. Senator Gillibrand has been committed to reducing childhood obesity by authoring plans for legislation to ban trans-fats in public schools and expand USDA authority to regulate all food served in schools, including vending machines. She supports increasing school reimbursements in order to help schools afford healthier meals. Additionally, Senator Gillibrand co-sponsored a Congressional briefing run by AAHPERD (SHAPE) and Health Corps in Washington to discuss the current status of health and physical education in American schools. Senator Gillibrand, a staunch supporter of school health and physical education, co-sponsored the PHYSICAL Act to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This bill would elevate health education and physical education
to core subjects and send states a clear message that the federal government deems these subjects essential to a well-rounded education for all children. Senator Gillibrand co-sponsored legislation in the 111th Congress, The Improved Nutrition And Physical Activity (IMPACT) Act which would:
Permit states to use preventive health and health services block grants for activities and community education. Support programs designed to address and prevent overweight, obesity, and eating disorders through programs to promote healthy eating, exercise habits, and behaviors and emotional and social wellness. Invest $60 million to provide grants for community-based health centers and organizations to help communities jumpstart more physical activity and better nutrition to keep our children active and healthy. The IMPACT Act would invest $10 million to provide training grants to health profession students to help them recognize and properly deal with overweight, obesity, and eating disorders. It also would provide school health grants to promote physical activity and nutrition. President Mergardt, it is my honor to present to you the recipient of the 2014 Bernard E. Hughes Award, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.