The 2014 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award is Laura Owen. Laura received both her Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and her Master of Science Degree in Exercise Physiology from Queens College. She has been a physical education teacher at White Plains High School for the past thirteen years. Laura was actively involved in recreating the physical education program at White Plains to meet the needs of the diverse population of students. She teaches fitness, Bigger, Faster, Stronger, Yoga and Pilate’s classes, all aligned to the NYS Learning Standards. She teaches her students how to care for their bodies, how to eat right and how to communicate with others. She teaches them how to be good sports, how to positively resolve conflicts and to have empathy and understanding for others. Participation in sport and physical activity has given joy and peace to Laura and giving that gift to her students is the most rewarding aspect of her job. In service to NYS AHPERD, she is the Southeastern Zone President, a member of the Get Moving NY committee, the Zone membership committee and Co-Coordinator of the Election Day Conference. She has presented at local, Zone and NYS AHPERD Conferences. The Coordinator of Athletics and Physical Education at White Plains said, “Laura’s commitment, dedication and passion for her students, athletes, the school community and her profession is unmatched. She is dedicated to creating a curriculum that teaches her students not only the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle, but also the importance of being “physically educated”. Laura’s greatest strengths are her passion for what she does and her ability to connect with her students.” President Mergardt, it is my honor to present to you the recipient of the 2014 Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award, Laura Owen.