The 2015 recipient of the Bernard E. Hughes Award is Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan. Assemblywoman Nolan was first elected to the Assembly in 1984. She represents the 37th Assembly District in Queens County. Ms. Nolan graduated from New York University cum laude with a B.A. degree in Political Science. She has chaired the Assembly’s Committee on Education since 2006. During that time she has spearheaded efforts to achieve class size reduction, universal pre-k, middle school initiatives, improve high school graduation rates and other measures that will ultimately mean success for the more than three million school children in New York State. As a parent of a public school student, Assemblywoman Nolan brings a parent's perspective to ongoing education debates. Ms. Nolan has been a longtime advocate of health and physical education programs. There are currently three active bills she has sponsored all of which support our disciplines. In January of 2008, Ms. Nolan held a hearing to explore physical education compliance in New York State public schools. She said, “We know physical activity improves academic performance by contributing to overall health and by teaching children valuable concepts like teamwork and problem solving. She also said, “Our goal is to ensure that every student in New York State receives time and instruction in physical education as is their right.” From this initiative came the NYS comptroller’s audits, which in turn did advance the cause of physical education compliance. One of Ms. Nolan’s current bills calls for the NYS Commissioner of Education to monitor Compliance with the current physical education regulations. We are grateful Assemblywoman Nolan for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of the children of New York State. President James, It is my honor to present to you the recipient of the Bernard E. Hughes Award Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan.