The 2012 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Professional of the Year Award is Dr. Shawn Ladda. Shawn received a bachelor of science degree in health and physical education from Penn State University, a master of science degree in teaching and athletic administration from Springfield College, and both a master's degree and doctorate in higher education administration from Teacher's College Columbia University. Shawn was the women’s soccer coach at Columbia University and the women’s soccer, basketball and lacrosse coach, as well as physical education teacher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is currently a Professor at Manhattan College in the Department of Physical Education and Human Performance, having served as Chair of the Department for eight years. She is an enthusiastic, active member of AAHPERD and NYS AHPERD. Shawn has been a tireless advocate for girls and women in sport. She is a past president of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport and currently is their representative to the AAHPERD Board of Governors. She has presented at AAHPERD Conferences and had the opportunity to present at the International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women Congress in South Africa. She is the New York City Zone President and Chair of the Jay B. Nash Outstanding Major Award Committee. She has coordinated her students as presenters and presiders at EDA, NYS AHPERD and Zone Conferences. She has published many journal articles including articles in the Journal of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and Strategies. She has received numerous awards including the AAHPERD Honor Award, Manhattan College’s Lasallian Educator of the Year Award and the Higher Education/Professional Preparation Section Amazing Person. She was selected as a Margaret Paulding Lecturer for EDA, NAGWS Feature Editor of JOPERD and she had the honor of presenting the Dr. Ron Feingold Lecture Series at the 2011 NYS AHPERD Conference. Her colleague wrote “She is an intense, creative and passionate woman who is a true leader in our field. Her energy is contagious.” President Quitoni, it is my privilege to present to you the recipient of the 2012 Professional of the Year Award, Shawn Ladda.