The 2012 recipient of the first annual NYS AHPERD Joy of Effort Award is Michael Macchi. Michael received his bachelor of science degree in physical education from the University of Bridgeport and his master of science degree in health education from Lehman College. He has been a physical education and health education teacher at Lakeland High School for the past fourteen years and is a member of the Lakeland Wellness Committee. Michael coached high school football in Lakeland, Carmel and Ardsley High Schools and he is presently coaching girls basketball and softball. Michael is described as being one of the “special” people who, if you are truly lucky, you might cross paths with. For many years, he has asked to teach the adapted physical education and health education classes. He sees through all the differences and looks to the person inside. He draws out the individual, while lifting them up and helping them achieve goals thought unachievable. Each and every day, Michael lives his uniqueness out in the form of a passionate commitment to helping his Life Skills students prepare for their future. His regular education students observe him respecting and nurturing the Life Skills students and they in turn, become inspired to reach out and interact with them as well. He uses humor to instruct and bond with his students keeping them smiling, a true testament to his students receptiveness to him and his methods. Michael’s principals said, “he effectively balances humor, familiarity, and expertise in his field to engage students. His commitment to his profession is evidenced in his physical education and health classrooms, as well as on the athletic field in his role as coach.” “His easy going approach in the classroom fosters involvement by a broad range of students. He works to establish relationships with students and to engage students of different abilities and motivation levels in his curriculum.” President Quitoni, it is my honor to present to you the recipient of the 2012 Joy of Effort Award, Michael Macchi.