



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

**Marge A. Tierney Memorial Scholarship
and
2021 New York State Teacher of the Year**

**Board of Regents Meeting
September 14, 2020**

Marge A. Tierney Memorial Scholarship

Nia Williams
Bronx, NY

Ms. Williams is a graduate student in the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program at Hunter College, The City University of New York. She is also enrolled in the master's degree Disability Studies program at The City University of New York School of Professional Studies.

Ms. Williams plans to obtain a PhD in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling, where she can provide support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



2021 New York State Teacher of the Year Finalist

Sara Bambino

North Syracuse Central School District

Ms. Bambino teaches English classes and an elective course titled *Team Building and Emotional Intelligence*, which she developed herself.

Ms. Bambino is also a teacher leader for her school's Positivity Project club, is on the board for the Special Olympics, and is the co-organizer of both her district's Corporate Challenge team and Breast Cancer walk team.



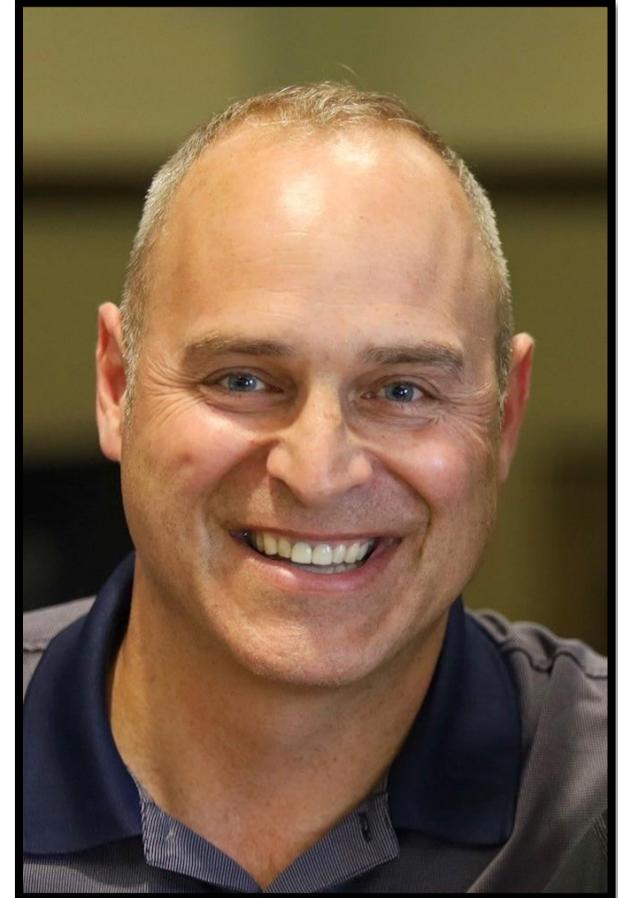
2021 New York State Teacher of the Year Finalist

James Brown

South Colonie Central School District

Mr. Brown began teaching in 1993 and currently teaches renewable energy to 5th graders and robotics and programming to 6th graders.

Mr. Brown has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Science Teaching Award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. He has facilitated workshops through graduate level courses and has helped develop and judge national and international STEM competitions and grants.



2021 New York State Teacher of the Year Finalist

Chelsea Dyer

East Greenbush Central School District

Since 2008, Ms. Dyer has shared her enthusiasm for reading, writing, and creative expression with all her students. Her work with the Capital District Writing Project has encouraged her students to value writing in and out of the classroom setting.

Ms. Dyer is also a Student Council adviser and assisted with implementing and sustaining a school-wide Unified Sports program.



2021 New York State Teacher of the Year Finalist

Victoria Gentile

Kings Park Central School District

Since 2002, Ms. Gentile has served as a special educator and behavior specialist. She is a certified special education teacher and licensed behavior analyst.

Ms. Gentile is the author of the district's Applied Behavior Analysis training manual. She has also conducted numerous behavior training sessions, brought in therapy dogs, and worked to create a sensory lab at her school.



2021 New York State Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Wolfe

Oceanside Union Free School District

Ms. Wolfe teaches 9th grade Pre-AP World History and AP Human Geography. She is also the Director of the Long Island National Board Network.

Ms. Wolfe is a National Board-Certified teacher in Adolescent and Young Adult Social Studies and has earned numerous prestigious awards. She also co-created the Long Island Teacher Leadership Powered by *Teach to Lead* Conference bringing together educators to work on special projects for their districts.

