

Physical Education & Health Faculty Profiles

Christine Affrunti

Christine Affrunti has been a Huntington health education teacher since September 2016. A graduate of Northport High School, she obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees at Adelphi University in health education. She earlier worked as a leave replacement health teacher at Hempstead High School and as a substitute in six different Long Island districts. She has also worked as a private health tutor and as an American Sign Language tutor.

Richard Agnello

Richard Agnello has been a Huntington health education teacher since September 2002. He is a graduate of Island Trees High School and obtained an undergraduate degree at McDaniel College and a graduate degree at Hofstra University. He holds certifications in physical education and health education.

Mr. Agnello has coached middle school boy's and girl's basketball and track and field.

Elizabeth Andersen

Elizabeth Andersen has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2015. A graduate of East Islip High School, she obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in physical education at SUNY Cortland with a concentration in adaptive learning and a master's degree in health education at West Virginia University.

Mrs. Andersen has coached varsity girls' cross country and lacrosse and JV girls' volleyball. Prior to coming to Huntington, she coached middle school girls' soccer and JV girls' lacrosse in Kings Park, winning Coach of the Year honors.

Marissa Bergmann

Marissa Bergmann has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2014. A member of Huntington High School's Class of 2003, she earned an undergraduate degree at Purdue University in elementary education with a minor in reading and obtained a master's degree at Stony Brook University in liberal studies with a concentration in health science.

Ms. Bergmann has coached high school basketball and field hockey and middle school soccer, field hockey and lacrosse. She has served as treasurer of the Suffolk County Girls' Basketball Coaches Association.

Lauren Blackburn

Lauren Blackburn has been a Huntington UFSD faculty member since September 2021. She worked as a health teacher at the high school and Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School in 2021/22 and has been a high school physical education teacher since September 2022.

Ms. Blackburn obtained an undergraduate degree at SUNY Cortland and a master's degree at Adelphi University with certificates in both adapted physical education and health education. She coaches varsity Unified bowling and bocce JV girls' volleyball and varsity girls' lacrosse. She has also coached middle school girls' volleyball. She is also co-advisor to the high school's Grandfriends club.

Prior to coming to Huntington, Ms. Blackburn was a teaching assistant and coach at Cold Spring Harbor. A graduate of Walt Whitman High School, she is a lifelong Huntington resident.

Maria Canino

Maria Canino has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2014. A member of Huntington High School's Class of 2007, she obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees from Adelphi University and Stony Brook University, respectively. She is also certified in health education. She obtained her school administrator certification through Stony Brook University.

Ms. Canino has coached varsity girls' wrestling coach and JV girls' soccer coach, volleyball and softball.

Karen Fischer

Karen Fischer has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 1995. A member of Huntington High School's Class of 1989, she played soccer, basketball and softball for the Blue Devils. She obtained her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Ithaca College where she also played soccer, basketball and softball. She secured her school administrator certification through Stony Brook University.

Over the years, Ms. Fischer has coached varsity soccer (county champions 2003 and 2004) and lacrosse for the Blue Devils. She currently serves as the scoreboard operator for many Huntington indoor and outdoor athletic teams. She has been honored by the Huntington Booster Club and was inducted into the Ithaca College Sports Hall of Fame.

Louis R. Giani

Louis R. Giani has been a full-time Huntington physical education teacher since September 2007. Prior to that, he worked part-time in the district for two years. A member of Huntington High School's Class of 2000, he obtained an undergraduate degree at SUNY Brockport in physical education and a master's degree at Stony Brook University.

Mr. Giani has also worked in Huntington's alternate high school program. He has coached middle school and high school wrestling and middle school boys' soccer.

Jim Hoops

Jim Hoops assumed the position of district director of health, physical education and athletics on July 1, 2021. He previously served for three years as coordinator of physical education, athletics and special projects. He has worked full-time in the district since April 1984 and has been a physical education teacher since September 1990. He is also certified as a social studies teacher.

A graduate of John H. Glenn High School, Mr. Hoops obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees at Stony Brook University, through which he also obtained his school administrator certification. He has coached wrestling on the high school level and boys' and girls' tennis and girls' soccer on both the middle school and high school levels. He has also coached middle school boys' and girls' soccer and baseball.

While serving as assistant coach to iconic Hall of Fame head coach Lou Giani, the Blue Devil wrestling team won several Suffolk and state team championships along with 17 individual county and eight state champions.

Mr. Hoops has also served as the district's public information coordinator since July 2001. He maintains Huntington UFSD's website content and also prepares items for the district's various social media platforms.

Jordan Ioviero

Jordan Ioviero has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2019. He has also taught adaptive physical education and health for the district. Prior to coming to Huntington, he taught physical education in Corona Queens for three years.

A graduate of John Glenn High School, Mr. Ioviero earned an undergraduate degree in physical education at Dowling College. He obtained a master's degree in general and special education, K-6 at Touro College. He also holds a health education license. He has coached varsity and middle school football and basketball, middle school track and field, varsity boys' and girls' badminton and varsity Unified basketball.

Jacqueline Lazzarini

Jacqueline Lazzarini has been a Huntington health teacher since September 2022. She

teaches classes at Huntington High School and Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School.

Ms. Lazzarini obtained an undergraduate degree in biology at SUNY Oneonta and a master's degree in physical education at Adelphi University. She is certified to teach both health and physical education.

Ms. Lazzarini has a background in personal training, nutrition and mindfulness. She has been a certified yoga instructor since 2017. She also has a long background in gymnastics and is the varsity coach of the Blue Devil gymnastics team, which is combined with Harborfields.

Timothy Madden

Tim Madden has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2002. A graduate of Hauppauge High School, he obtained an undergraduate degree at SUNY Cortland and a master's degree at Stony Brook University. He has coached football, flag football, basketball, baseball, track, lacrosse and softball at various levels.

Michael Marinello

Michael Marinello has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 1995 and has been the department coordinator since July 2021. He earlier taught at Western Suffolk BOCES for five years. A graduate of Sachem High School, he earned an undergraduate degree at Springfield College in physical education and a master's degree at Stony Brook University in liberal studies with a concentration in health science. He has coached high school boys' and girls' golf, high school and middle school wrestling, JV tennis and middle school baseball and boys' track and field.

Mr. Marinello is a CPR and First Aid trainer and is approved by the State Education Department to teach coaching certification courses. He has also been a volunteer emergency medical technician.

Eric Mininni

Eric Mininni has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 1998. A graduate of Oceanside High School, he obtained an undergraduate degree at Towson State University in athletic training and physical education and a master's degree at Adelphi University in health.

Mr. Mininni has coached middle school, junior varsity and varsity boys' and girls' volleyball, varsity softball, middle school boys' track and field, junior varsity girls' tennis and middle school boys' tennis.

Alex Nelson

Alex Nelson has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2017. A graduate of Smithtown High School East, he obtained his undergraduate degree at Adelphi University, where he dual majored in physical education and accounting. He earned a master's degree in coaching and exercise science at Concordia University Irvine in California.

Licensed by Eastern New York Youth Soccer as a professional soccer trainer working for Long Island Professional Soccer, Mr. Nelson has coached middle school and JV soccer and middle school basketball and is the founding coach of Huntington varsity boys' and girls' badminton teams. He trains travel soccer teams for the Long Island Junior Soccer League.

Carrie Postel

Carrie Postel has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2001. She obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees from Long Island University-C.W. Post and Touro College, respectively. Before coming to the district, she was a part-time health and physical education teacher in the neighboring Elwood School District.

Mrs. Postel has coached varsity, junior varsity and middle school girl's volleyball and middle school girl's track and field.

John Romano

John Romano has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2018. He earned an undergraduate degree in sports management at Dowling College in 2007 and obtained a graduate degree in physical education at Adelphi University in 2011.

Prior to coming to Huntington, Mr. Romano taught physical education at PS/MS 206 in East Harlem, New York.

Mr. Romano has coached boys' cross country, boys' tennis, boys' and girls' basketball, softball and baseball interscholastically.

Natalee Schaeffer

Natalee Schaeffer has been a Huntington physical education and health education teacher since September 2010. She obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees at SUNY Cortland in 2004 and 2006, respectively. She secured her school administrator certification through Stony Brook University.

Prior to coming to Huntington, Ms. Schaeffer worked for several years as a physical education and health teacher in West Islip and as a leave replacement in South Huntington. She has coached girls' volleyball on the high school and middle school levels and middle school girls' lacrosse.

Shealyn Scully

Shea Scully has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2021. A Huntington graduate, she earned an undergraduate degree in fashion merchandising and master's degree in elementary education at the University of Bridgeport. She went on to obtain her physical education certification by taking courses at Stony Brook University, SUNY Cortland and Suffolk County Community College.

Ms. Scully is the founding coach of the Blue Devil varsity girls' flag football team. She has also coached varsity and JV girls' lacrosse, JV girls' basketball and middle school girls' soccer and basketball.

Travis Smith

Travis T. Smith has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 1998. A member of Huntington High School's Class of 1992, he obtained a bachelor's degree at SUNY Brockport and a masters' degree at Stony Brook University.

Mr. Smith has coached wrestling on both the middle school and high school levels and earned many awards, including national varsity assistant coach of the year in 2004. He has also coached boys' soccer and lacrosse and football on the middle school level.

Christopher Taylor

Christopher Taylor has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 1996. A graduate of Port Richmond High School in Staten Island, he obtained an undergraduate degree at CUNY-Queens College and a master's degree at Hofstra University.

Mr. Taylor has coached high school bowling, track and field, football and lacrosse and middle school basketball, wrestling, volleyball and track and field. He helped coach the girls' lacrosse team to Suffolk and Long Island championships in 2025 and he has won county and Long Island football championships while coaching outside of the district.

Jake Torres

Jake Torres has been a full-time Huntington physical education teacher since September 2025. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education from Towson University and a graduate degree in health education from SUNY Brockport.

With a strong background in both education and athletics, Mr. Torres has gained extensive coaching experience across multiple levels/sports, including volleyball, basketball, softball, and baseball. He has contributed to the athletic development of students in several school districts, including Smithtown, Harborfields and Huntington.

Eric Triolo

Eric Triolo has been a Huntington physical education teacher since September 2000. A graduate of Walt Whitman High School, he obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Massachusetts and Hofstra University, respectively. He has coached varsity lacrosse and badminton and middle school girls' tennis.