

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH  
By Jennifer Wittman-Cahill

Thank you Town Supervisor Edward Romaine, The Brookhaven Town Council and the Office of Women's Services for this opportunity and honor. Likewise, I must thank my immediate supervisors at Sayville High School, Principal Ronald Hoffer and Athletic Director, Dennis Maloney for their generous nominations. I am also forever grateful to all of my students and athletes, both former and current for allowing me to influence their lives and for the everlasting impact they have had on my life. Most importantly, without the unyielding guidance, support and love from my family, in particular my parents, I would not have been blessed with the necessary tools to become a successful teacher, coach, wife and mother.

I have had some superior teachers throughout my education and so I make it a point to always emulate those characteristics, which I believe make them standouts. Additionally, as a competitive high school, collegiate and amateur athlete, I desire to motivate my student-athletes to achieve their greatest potential. My teaching practices and philosophy both in the classroom and on the athletic field are the same: DREAM, LEAD, ENCOURAGE, MOTIVATE, LISTEN, RESPECT, RISK, SET GOALS, COLLABORATE, LOVE, STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE - NOT PERFECTION, LIVE WITH PERSISTENCE AND PASSION AND NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, EVER GIVE UP!

Farshad Asl (FUR SOD /UGH SEAL), entrepreneur and motivational speaker said "coaching is the universal language to connect with people, helping them to develop a new perspective, while expanding their inner beliefs and boundaries, equipping them to become the best version of themselves." I believe that coaching and teaching are synonymous and so my thrust as an educator and coach has always been to develop better students, better athletes, but most importantly, better people.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to impact and be impacted by my students, colleagues, friends and family members. I am honored to be the wife of Naval Petty Officer –First Class,

Edward Cahill and the Mother of Aila Rose Cahill. To my all-time greatest supporter, my Mom, you will always be my inspiration. I am truly grateful and humbled by this evening's recognition. Thank you.