

## **NICHOLS FOUNDATION CHEMISTRY TEACHER AWARDEE**

*Ms. Zietlin combines extensive knowledge with an approachable demeanor. She fosters an environment that motivates her students, inspires a love for learning and welcomes inquiry.*

*– Stephanie O'Brien, Director of Science, Smithtown High School & 2018 Nichols Foundation Chemistry Teacher Awardee*

Ms. Maria Zeitlin, Smithtown High School East – a public school with 1400 students, was recognized as the 2024 Nichols Foundation Chemistry Teacher Awardee. She received her Bachelors of Science from Stony Brook University and was employed as an analytical chemist doing fluid analysis for military aircraft carriers prior to returning to earn her Master's degree in teaching. Her teaching load has included AP Chemistry and being both the coordinator and teacher of the Science Research Program. As research coordinator and teacher Maria mentors her students to great achievements. Her students enter science fairs including the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Long Island Science Fair, Siemens Competition, STANYS, and the Think program where they have been finalists and first place winners.

Shray Thaker, former student, aspiring physician who is now in an MD/PHD program at Stony Brook University, uses and is inspired by three of Maria's quotes

- “ Be a sponge for knowledge- observe learn and question everything”
- “ Fail till you succeed”
- “ Aim for excellence and recognition will follow”



*Maria Zeitlin (left)  
Nichols Foundation Chemistry Teacher Awardee*

*Ms. Zeitlin gave countless hours as my guide through student research and college level chemistry. She is a lifelong mentor*

*– Shray Thaker, former student*

*Supported by the William H. Nichols Fund For Chemistry at the Boston Foundation*