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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAFETY EFFORTS EARN *Wells Central School District* UTICA NATIONAL'S SCHOOL SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD

March 21, 2017 – Saratoga, New York – Wells Central School District is one of 136 school districts and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State to receive the Utica National Insurance Group's "School Safety Excellence Award" for 2017 at the *Titanium with honors* level.

The honor is presented annually and recognizes school districts' safety efforts as they work to help keep students, staff and visitors safe. *Wells Central School District* received its award at Utica National's 37th annual school safety seminar at the The Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs, NY, one of seven such seminars the company hosts in the state. For over 40 years Utica National has kept kids and school staff safe and currently insures more than 300 school districts in upstate New York alone.

Wells Central School District officials accepted a certificate to commemorate the district's safety efforts and a \$500 award for use in furthering those efforts from Utica National representatives.

Utica National's School Safety Excellence Award Program has three levels – titanium, platinum, and gold – in which schools can earn a meritorious distinction by meeting specific criteria to enhance overall safety. Through the program, schools with their own transportation, schools with contract transportation, and BOCES are evaluated. Categories covered include bullying prevention programs, playground safety and other areas, and are measured using specific, quantifiable surveys.

"Safety and health concerns continue to be a priority in our school districts," explained Brian Saville, Resident Senior Vice President in Utica National's Educational Institutions Unit. "Districts that go 'above and beyond' to provide a safe, healthy and focused culture for learning are to be applauded, and we're pleased to count *Wells Central School District* among them."

Mr. Saville noted that, beyond the recognition itself, an added benefit of following the safety program is the chance to pinpoint specific threats to safety. "The time to address those threats is before a loss happens, which really helps contribute to the safety culture that districts are working toward."

About Utica National Insurance Group

Utica National Insurance Group is a Top 100, nationally recognized insurer providing personal and commercial insurance products and services, with the second-largest errors and omissions business in the United States. Utica National sells its products through more than 2,200 independent insurance agents and employs over 1,200 people countrywide. The company was founded in 1914 and is headquartered in New Hartford, New York, with seven regional offices. For further information, please visit www.uticanational.com.