

## ***Catskill Central School District***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

*March 26, 2019 - Saratoga, New York - Catskill Central School District* is one of 156 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 2019 at the ***Titanium*** level.

The honor is presented annually and recognizes school districts' safety efforts as they work to help keep students, staff and visitors safe. ***Catskill Central School District*** received its award at Utica National's 39<sup>th</sup> annual school safety seminar at the The Saratoga Hilton/City Center, 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.

***Catskill Central School District*** officials accepted a certificate to commemorate the district's safety 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 security is paramount to our success as a school district," stated Dr. Ronel Cook, Superintendent of Schools. "We are very thankful to be recognized by Union National for our diligence and adherence to safety procedures and protocols," said Cook. "Learning occurs naturally when parents feel comfortable with sending their children to school and our teachers feel comfortable with facilitating instruction to students in a safe and secure learning environment."

Dr. Cook noted that, beyond the recognition itself, an added benefit of following the safety program is the chance to collaborate with all internal and external stakeholders. "Our BERT teams, armed retired officers, state and local law enforcement agencies meet quarterly as a SAVE Committee to fine-tune areas of concern so that implementation of procedures is seamless."

#### **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](http://www.uticanational.com).