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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Principals Association Encourages Principal Appreciation in October

Springfield, IL – Lifetouch, Inc. and the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) encourage all communities in Illinois to celebrate Principal Appreciation Week October 15-21, 2017, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 20, 2017. This state-endorsed recognition was first approved by the Governor of Illinois in 1990 and is annually celebrated. The IPA also joins the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) to recognize October as National Principals Month.

“Leaving the classroom to become a principal was one of the most difficult, yet rewarding transitions I have ever experienced,” said Hattie Llewellyn, President of the Illinois Principals Association and principal of New Berlin High School in New Berlin. “Becoming a principal has given me the opportunity to influence students, colleagues, and communities in ways that I had never imagined. The role of the principal is multifaceted and is continually evolving to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of the students we serve. I have yet to experience a work day that goes according to ‘plan’ or how I thought it would – no two days are ever alike. Throughout the year, and especially during Principal Appreciation Week, please make it a priority to thank a principal for their dedication to the profession, to your community, and to the children which they serve.”

“Principals and educational leaders impact students’ lives in a significant way,” said Jason Leahy, IPA Executive Director. “As a former principal and having visited dozens of schools throughout Illinois, the quality of a school’s learning environment and the ability of a school to do what is best for its students comes as a direct result of the leadership provided by the school’s Principal and leadership team. Courageous leadership is essential to effectively educate students and work to provide the resources and support they need to be successful in the 21st Century. It is important that we recognize and encourage our schools’ leaders today and every day.”

Principal Appreciation Day provides learning communities an opportunity to publicly recognize the work, commitment and importance of principals, assistant principals, and deans throughout the state. Lifetouch and the IPA invite all teachers, students, parents, and community members to perform some act of appreciation on Friday, October 20th to acknowledge the leadership of building administrators in Illinois’ public and private schools.

Lifetouch Inc. became the world’s largest employee-owned photography company in 1936. The school “Picture Day” has become a tradition that provides a photographic record of growth and maturity for millions of children each year. Lifetouch is proud to be the official school photographer for the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Lifetouch is honored to support local members of the Illinois Principals Association in recognition of “Principal’s Appreciation Day. Learn more about Lifetouch at www.lifetouch.com/.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 5,000 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders.

For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org

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