



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Blende Drug Inc. Named IPC 2017 Most Valuable Pharmacy (MVP)**

**SUN PRAIRIE, WI, July 17, 2017** – Independent Pharmacy Cooperative (IPC) is thrilled to announce Blende Drug Inc. of Pueblo, Colorado and its owner John Cernac, as its Most Valuable Pharmacy (MVP) for 2017. Cernac, his wife Charlotte and son, John Cernac, Jr. accepted IPC's MVP Award at the IPC Annual Business Meeting July 14 during McKesson ideaShare 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Cernac first learned of the award during a surprise ceremony held at the pharmacy shortly before McKesson ideaShare. Customers, staff and IPC representatives gathered together as IPC Director of Sales Operations Mindy Herrmann presented the award to Cernac and the entire pharmacy team at Blende Drug Inc.

“John Cernac truly embodies the spirit of the cooperative and it is an honor to be able to recognize him for his leadership and dedication to impressive service and care.” IPC President and CEO Don Anderson said. “Blende Drug is at the heart of their community and a strong voice for independent pharmacy.”

A pharmacist since 1959, John Cernac is active in NCPA, the Colorado Pharmacy Association and RxPlus Colorado. He is proud to support several scholarship programs for the future of independent pharmacists. He received the Colorado Board of Regents Medal in 1992. Blende Drug Inc. and owner John Cernac take pride in community involvement with the Pueblo County Junior Livestock Sale, Pueblo Heart Association, Pueblo County High School, CU Directors Club, CU at the Fair Committee and the Pueblo CU Alumni Scholarship fund. Cernac is a past Board Member for the Blende Sanitation District and the Parish Council.

John Cernac purchased Blende Drug Inc. of Pueblo, Colorado in 1972 with partners Ron Yoxey and Nick Giordano. After 11 years, John and his wife Charlotte became the sole owners. John and Charlotte raised two sons and have three grandchildren.

“IPC has exceptional personnel involved in political action, educational opportunities, and excellent buying strategies which accounts for our exceptional rebates,” Cernac said. “The MVP Award was a total surprise and a tremendous honor for myself, Charlotte and our staff. It means a lot to me to know that IPC selected Blende Drug Inc. from over 5,000 IPC stores, this accomplishment has made my 58 years as a pharmacist filled with exuberant joy.”

Dating back to 1983, IPC is the nation's largest group purchasing organization owned by independent pharmacy, representing nearly 6,000 members. With locations in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin and Phoenix, Arizona, IPC prides itself on providing access to the most effective programs and services to put profit back into the independent pharmacy.

For more information about IPC, go to [www.ipcrx.com](http://www.ipcrx.com).

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*IPC MVP Roster: 2016: Oswalt Pharmacy of Seminole, Texas; 2015: Lombard Pharmacy of Lombard, Illinois; 2014: Tieton Village Drugs of Yakima, Washington; 2013: Beemon Drugs of Jackson, Mississippi; 2012: Yost Pharmacy of Mason, Ohio; 2011: Neuhauser Pharmacy of Madison, Wisconsin; 2010: Windham Pharmacy of Windham, New York.*

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