WellPoint Named "Top 50 Company for Executive Women" by National Association for Female Executives

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WellPoint, Inc, (NYSE: WLP) today was named one of the *Top 50 Companies for Executive Women* by the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE). The NAFE Top Companies lead corporate America in recruiting, retaining and advancing women.

A newly released report conducted by the Working Mother Research Institute revealed that women hold nearly one in four positions at the Top Companies (23%), overseeing divisions with more than \$1 billion in revenue. The report also finds that women hold 23% of all board of director seats at the Top Companies compared with 16% across the Fortune 500. In addition, 22% of executive officers at the NAFE Top Companies are women compared with 3.6% at the Fortune 500.

According to Carol Evans, president of Working Mother Media and CEO, NAFE, "The NAFE Top 50 Companies are major employers that are committed to hiring, retaining and promoting executive women. They represent a cross-section of companies that go way beyond lip service in helping succeed. Almost seven out of 10 companies require their managers to receive training on how to hire, advance or manage women. Manager accountability is the main ingredient for success."

WellPoint has achieved a reputation as an organization where professional women can lead successful careers and reach the highest levels of management. Lori Beer, executive vice president of WellPoint's Enterprise Business Services, sees mentoring as a key factor in advancing women's careers. "I'm a firm believer in sharing your experiences and knowledge with others," said Ms. Beer. "We strive to maintain a work environment and a corporate culture that promote work-life balance and flexibility — an essential component to fostering women's advancement and success in our organization."

In fact, almost half of the WellPoint's senior managers are women, and one third of its corporate executives are women. The company's initiatives to promote gender equality in the workplace include a robust succession planning program and an *Executive Excellence* accelerated executive leadership development program, of which approximately one third of participants are women. In addition, the Women of WellPoint (WOW) associate resource group focuses on identifying and removing barriers for the advancement of women within WellPoint. WOW has grown in membership dramatically in the past year, doubling in size to almost 600 women.

Linda Jimenez, Chief Diversity Officer & VP — Diversity and Inclusion for WellPoint, affirms the company's commitment helping women achieve success. "Through the efforts of programs such as WOW, WellPoint helps women succeed — and thrive — in today's corporate culture."

Betty Spence, PhD, president of NAFE, reports, "The key concern of talent executives at major companies today is women's advancement to the highest ranks. NAFE emphasized the importance of ensuring that women enter the leadership pipeline early and then have the training, exposure, and sponsorship they need to succeed." The report is published in the February/March issue of *Working Mother* magazine; for details and a complete list of the NAFE Top Companies for Female Executives, visit <u>workingmother.com</u>.

NAFE is a division of Working Mother Media, owned by the Bonnier Corporation.

Methodology: The 2012 NAFE Top 50 Companies application includes more than 250 questions on topics including female representation, hiring, attrition and promotion rates, access and usage of key retention and advancement programs. The application draws particular attention to the number of women at the highest ranks and those with profit-and-loss responsibility. To be considered, companies must have a minimum of two women on their board of directors as well as at least 500 employees in the U.S.

About NAFE

The National Association for Female Executives (NAFE), founded in 1972, serves 20,000 members nationwide with networking, tools and solutions to strengthen and grow their careers and businesses. *Working Mother* magazine publishes the annual Top Companies and the Women of Excellence lists.

<u>NAFE.com</u> provides up-to-date information, community for women in business and access to member benefits. NAFE is a division of Working Mother Media, owned by the Bonnier Corporation. 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of NAFE.

About WellPoint, Inc.

WellPoint works to simplify the connection between Health, Care and Value. We help to improve the health of our members and our communities, and provide greater value to our customers and shareholders. WellPoint is one of the nation's largest health benefits companies, with 34 million members in its affiliated health plans, and a total of more than 65 million individuals served through its subsidiaries. As an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, WellPoint serves members as the Blue Cross licensee for California; the Blue Cross and Blue Shield licensee for Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri (excluding 30 counties in the Kansas City area), Nevada, New Hampshire, New York (as the Blue Cross Blue Shield licensee in 10 New York City metropolitan and surrounding counties and as the Blue Cross or Blue Cross Blue Shield licensee in selected upstate counties only), Ohio, Virginia (excluding the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C.), and Wisconsin. In a majority of these service areas, WellPoint's plans do business as Anthem Blue Cross, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, or Empire Blue Cross (in the New York service areas). WellPoint also serves customers throughout the country as UniCare and in certain California, Arizona and Nevada markets through our recently acquired CareMore Health Group, Inc. subsidiary. Additional information about WellPoint is available at www.wellpoint.com.

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