

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION ANNOUNCES SPONSORSHIP OF NAWBO

LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS – Wintrust Financial Corporation (“Wintrust”) (Nasdaq: WTFC) announced that they will be the premier sponsor of the National Association of Women Business Owners-Chicago (“NAWBO”). NAWBO is an organization dedicated to propelling women entrepreneurs into economic, political, and social spheres worldwide through strategic alliances and affiliations, creating innovative changes in the business culture, and strengthening the wealth generating capacity of its members and promoting economic development within the entrepreneurial community.

Sponsoring NAWBO is a continuation of Wintrust’s focus on serving the needs of the small business community, including women owned businesses throughout the Greater Chicagoland and southern Wisconsin area. On October 6th, NAWBO had its first event under the Wintrust premier sponsorship during the 2nd annual NAWBO Day. Wintrust hosted the luncheon panel discussion entitled “Navigating Financing Options”.

About Wintrust

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately \$15 billion whose common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Built on the “HAVE IT ALL” model, Wintrust offers sophisticated technology and resources of a large bank while focusing on providing service-based community banking to each and every customer. Wintrust operates fifteen community bank subsidiaries, now with [100] banking offices located in the greater Chicago and Milwaukee market areas. Additionally, the Company operates various non-bank subsidiaries including one of the largest commercial insurance premium finance companies operating in the United States, a company providing short-term accounts receivable financing and value-added out-sourced administrative services to the temporary staffing services industry, companies engaging primarily in the origination and purchase of residential mortgages for sale into the secondary market throughout the United States, and companies providing wealth management services.

Forward-Looking Information

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws relating to the proposed acquisition of Elgin State Bancorp, Inc. and integration of Elgin State Bancorp, Inc. with Wintrust, the combination of their businesses and projected revenue, as well as profitability and earnings outlook.. Investors are cautioned that such statements are predictions and that actual events or results may differ materially. Wintrust's expected financial results or other plans are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" and the forward-looking statement disclosure contained in Wintrust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year and in Wintrust's subsequent

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made and Wintrust undertakes no duty to update the information.



Caption for picture: Gail Zelitzky NAWBO President joined by Cathy Pratt, Teresa Handley, Jolie Horen, and Cindy Rawlings all from Wintrust Financial.