NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Corporation Announces Cash Dividend

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ROSEMONT, Ill., Jan. 28, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Wintrust Financial Corporation ("Wintrust" or the "Company") (Nasdaq:WTFC) today announced that the Company's Board of Directors approved a quarterly cash dividend of $0.12 per share of outstanding common stock. The dividend is payable on February 25, 2016 to shareholders of record as of February 11, 2016. This represents an increase from the $0.11 quarterly cash dividend paid in each of the quarters of 2015.

Additionally, the Company's Board of Directors approved quarterly cash dividends on outstanding shares of the Company's 5.00% Non-Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, Series C and the Company's 6.50% Fixed-to-Floating Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series D. In each case, the dividend is payable on April 15, 2016 to shareholders of record as of April 1, 2016.

About Wintrust

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately $23 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 over 150 banking locations located in the greater Chicago and southern Wisconsin market areas. Additionally, the Company operates various non-bank business units including one of the largest commercial insurance premium finance companies operating in the United States and Canada, a company providing short-term accounts receivable financing and value-added out-sourced administrative services to the temporary staffing services industry, a business unit 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. Investors are cautioned that such statements are predictions and 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 most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in any of the Company's subsequent SEC filings. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made and Wintrust undertakes no duty to update the information.

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