NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Corporation to Present at Raymond James and Associates 27th Annual Institutional Investors Conference

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LAKE FOREST, Ill., March 2 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Wintrust Financial Corporation ("Wintrust") (Nasdaq: WTFC) will present at the Raymond James and Associates 27th Annual Institutional Investors Conference to be held in Orlando, FL on March 5 - 8, 2006. Wintrust's presentation is scheduled to begin at 11:00 AM, Eastern Time, on March 7, 2006.

This event will be webcast and may be accessed at Wintrust's website at **http://www.wintrust.com** or at **http://www.wsw.com/webcast/rj19/wtfc/** . Listeners should go to the website at least fifteen minutes before the presentation to download and install any necessary audio software. For those unable to attend the live broadcast, a replay will be available for 30 days after the conference. There is no charge to access the event.

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately $8 billion whose common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market (Nasdaq: WTFC). Wintrust operates thirteen community bank subsidiaries that are located in the 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 including broker- dealer, money management services, advisory services, and trust and estate services. As of December 31, 2005, Wintrust operated a total of 62 banking offices and is in the process of constructing several additional branch facilities.

Additional Information

Wintrust has filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with its previously announced proposed acquisition of Hinsbrook Bancshares, Inc. ("HBI") in a merger transaction consisting of consideration of stock and cash. In connection with the proposed transaction, Wintrust will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), and will furnish to shareholders of HBI, a proxy statement/prospectus. Shareholders are advised to read the proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available because it will contain important information about Wintrust, HBI and the proposed transaction. A definitive proxy statement/prospectus will be sent to HBI shareholders seeking their approval of the merger and the other transactions contemplated thereby. Shareholders will be able to obtain a free-of-charge copy of the proxy statement (when available) and other relevant documents filed with the SEC from the SEC's website at **http://www.sec.gov** . Shareholders will also be able to obtain a free-of-charge copy of the proxy statement and other relevant documents (when available) by directing a request by mail or telephone to Wintrust Financial Corporation, Attn: Investor Relations, 727 North Bank Lane, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 or by calling (847) 615-4096, or to Hinsbrook Bancshares, Inc., Attn: President, 6262 South Route 83, Willowbrook, Illinois 60527 or by calling (630) 920-2700. Shareholders are urged to read the proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant material when they become available before making any voting or investment decisions with respect to the proposed transactions.

HBI and certain of its directors, executive officers and other members of management and employees may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed to be "participants" in the solicitation of proxies from shareholders of HBI in favor of the proposed merger. Information regarding the persons who may be considered "participants" in the solicitation of proxies will be set forth in the proxy statement/prospectus when it is filed with the SEC.

This communication shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. No offering of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Statements about the expected timing, completion and effects of the proposed merger and all other statements in this release other than historical facts constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

SOURCE Wintrust Financial Corporation
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/CONTACT: Edward J. Wehmer, President & Chief Executive Officer, or David A. Dykstra, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of Wintrust Financial Corporation, +1-847-615-4096/

/Web site: http://www.wintrust.comhttp://www.rjcapitalmarkets.com/conference_detail_main.asp?content_id=100/
(WTFC)

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