## Northwestern Mutual CEO John Schlifske Joins U.S. Secretary of Commerce at Fintech Growth and Collaboration Forum

MILWAUKEE, February 12, 2016 – On Thursday, February 11, financial services and fintech thought leaders convened in New York City to discuss opportunities for deepening collaboration to deliver a broader range of solutions to consumers. Hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce in conjunction with LearnVest and The Partnership Fund for New York City, this first-ever event featured a series of panel discussions and networking sessions.

Northwestern Mutual Chairman and CEO John Schlifske joined a select group of industry leaders in a dialogue led by U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary, Penny Pritzker, around how government could partner with the financial services industry to promote innovation and support the continued growth of the sector.

"Technology and innovation are transforming every aspect of consumers' lives," said Schlifske. "At Northwestern Mutual, we believe layering a rich digital experience onto expert, personalized advice is the key to closing the gap people face when they try to achieve financial security."

A core theme of the forum centered on redefining disruption. Rather than incumbent companies making way for new entities, disruption has become innovative start-ups and established firms uniting to broaden access to financial services.

"Northwestern Mutual's acquisition and partnership with LearnVest brings together the best from both companies," continued Schlifske. "We are combining our strengths and vision around financial security, and that enables us to deliver authentic interactions and everyday relevance across multiple platforms."

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