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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LAIRD NORTON COMPANY  
ANNOUNCES SALE OF FUSION INVESTMENT GROUP**

**SEATTLE, Wash.** (November 27, 2017) – Laird Norton Company (LNC) today announced the sale of Fusion Education Group (Fusion) to Leeds Equity Partners, LLC (Leeds Equity), a New York-based private equity group. Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Fusion operates revolutionary private middle schools and high schools that offer individualized education.

The successful partnership with LNC has helped Fusion establish 43 campuses in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC. The acquisition by Leeds Equity will allow Fusion to expand its national network.

“Laird Norton Company has prospered for more than 160 years by establishing and empowering partnerships,” said Jeff Vincent, LNC CEO. “Our relationship with Fusion has helped the private education company to grow aggressively over the past decade.” LNC’s original investment in Fusion was made in 2007.

“LNC has been a fantastic partner for us. From start-up through today, they’ve provided significant value in strategy, capital allocation, and overall business counsel. They’ve been a key contributor to our success,” Peter Ruppert, Fusion CEO said.

The Fusion approach to learning is effective for all students, however, it is used most frequently by students who have not achieved their full potential at their prior school due to, among other factors, challenges with whole group instruction, anxiety, depression, or ADHD. Each Fusion Academy is focused on creating supportive campus environments where every student can flourish. Classrooms have one student and one teacher, allowing a personalized approach to each student’s unique emotional and academic needs.

Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

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### **About Laird Norton Company**

Headquartered in Seattle, Laird Norton Company (LNC) is a family-owned enterprise that provides long-term capital and resources to empower companies to thrive. Over the past 160 years, this seventh-generation enterprise has grown into a diversified business with significant investments in real estate, consumer, and financial companies. LNC wholly owns several entities such as Laird Norton Wealth Management (LNWM), a premier wealth management company with close to \$5 billion in assets under advisement, and Laird Norton Properties, a Seattle-based real estate investment firm that owns and operates a national portfolio valued at over \$500 million.

For more information about LNC, visit [www.lairdnorton.com](http://www.lairdnorton.com).

### **About Fusion Education Group**

Headquartered in Grand Rapids, MI, Fusion operates revolutionary private middle and high schools that offer individualized education.

For additional information about Fusion, visit [www.fusionacademy.com](http://www.fusionacademy.com).