



For Immediate Release

### **ACA's Angel Investor Foundation Announces First Major Donor**

Kansas City, MO (January 11, 2022) -- The Angel Capital Association announced the creation of the Angel Investor Foundation (AIF) and confirmed its first major donor this week, setting the stage for the growth of the most comprehensive angel investing education program available, ACA Angel University.

"The Angel Investor Foundation is humbled and proud to announce the first major donor in our history," said CEO Patrick Gouhin. "Through the generous gift of Ann and Bill Payne, the ACA and its wholly owned subsidiary, AIF, will be able to launch and extend its renowned education programs, bringing awareness and knowledge about angel investing smart practices to the investing and entrepreneurial communities."

The Angel Capital Association (ACA) has created and curated best-in-class knowledge about angel investing since its formation, but only in the last few years has this knowledge been formatted into commercially viable education products and taught by the world's best practitioners. ACA's education offerings are headlined by a series of nine courses for angel investors and entrepreneurs, known as ACA Angel University.

In a very short time, Angel University has provided tens of thousands of student course hours and has trained thousands of practicing angels. ACA's content, recognized by angel leaders for its excellence, has also been delivered via other formats, including webinars, lectures, white papers, and reports, expanding ACA's impact on new and seasoned angel investors and entrepreneurs.

The generosity of Ann and Bill Payne changes the future of ACA's education program, providing a capital infusion to market and expand delivery of education to angels, entrepreneurs, economic development agencies, incubators, startup hubs, and ecosystem builders around the world. Pioneering angel investor Bill Payne has been a long-time contributor to this content and knowledge repository, sharing his expertise and experience for more than three decades.

"Recognizing these unparalleled accomplishments, ACA will rename its education program after the legacy built around defining and teaching the smart practices underlying the science of angel investing," explained ACA Chair Emeritus Tony Shipley. "This seminal gift from Ann and Bill will help ACA truly transform angel investor education and accelerate the implementation of the ACA Education and Smart Practice initiative that is now one of the key strategic pillars of ACA."

"Angel investing has given us so much. We've realized delightful returns on our investments, not just financially, but personally as well. We are passionate about supporting entrepreneurs as they kick start innovative new companies. We're also driven by helping other investors become successful angels," explained Ann and Bill Payne. "We want our gift to open more opportunities for investors, so they can continue the important work of supporting our entrepreneurial communities."

One of ACA's top priorities in the new year, enabled by this gift, is the hiring of a talented business development resource, focused on developing partnerships and outbound selling of ACA's educational offerings, including the courses within the Ann and Bill Payne ACA Angel University. This resource will work closely with the ACA's Board-led Education and Smart Practices Committee (E&SPC), the ACA's CEO and staff, and leaders in the ACA educational community. The new resource will also build external partnerships with other investor-and entrepreneur-focused organizations, economic development agencies and local, national, and international business communities who can benefit from the ACA's offerings.

"We'll reach more accredited investors with our powerful step by step education programs, and we'll bring more entrepreneurs and angels together as a result," explained Gouhin. "We believe our economy owes a debt of gratitude to the angel investors and entrepreneurs who take smart chances every day, and we're committed to helping them become more successful in their ventures. We are honored to be stewards of Ann and Bill's gift, and we look forward to expanding our ability to deliver valuable education to groups around the world."

#### **About the Angel Capital Association (ACA)**

The Angel Capital Association (ACA) is the professional association of angel investors across North America and offers education, best practices, data, public policy advocacy, and significant benefits and resources to its membership of more than 14,000 accredited investors, who invest individually or through its 250+ angel groups, accredited platforms, and family offices. Visit [angelcapitalassociation.org](http://angelcapitalassociation.org)

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