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Paul Magelli named inaugural Illini Angels director

Entrepreneur and big-data and analytics pioneer Paul Magelli has been appointed as the inaugural director of Illini Angels, the University of Illinois System’s angel investing network.

“I am beyond thrilled that Paul has joined our team and taken on this leadership role for Illini Angels,” Illinois Ventures CEO and Managing Director Nancy Sullivan said. “Illini Angels is poised to become the world’s leading angel network with the support of our phenomenal alumni and Paul’s leadership. As an alumnus, Paul understands our universities’ spirit and is ready to lead our angel investors and support our emerging companies and grow our innovation ecosystem.”

Illini Angels, a program of the system’s venture capital arm, Illinois Ventures, supports early-stage companies that have founders or leadership who are connected to the U of I System family – faculty, alumni or students from any of the three universities, as well as companies that license university technology.

That support includes early stage funding, advice and mentorship. The angel network focuses on innovative companies that leverage the U of I System’s expertise in fields like engineering, computer science, healthcare, ag tech and energy.

“The University of Illinois System is a global leader in innovation, tackling some of the world’s toughest challenges, and its innovation ecosystem has pioneered the science for breakthroughs such as the transistor and LEDs, MRI, online education, the shingles vaccine, and the web browser,” Magelli said. “This network brings together our extraordinary alumni angels, with some of the world’s most inventive and high-impact faculty, students, and alumni, to scale and accelerate the development and growth of start-up companies bringing innovations to market.”

A two-degree University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign alumnus, Magelli has a successful history as a founder, chief executive officer, and board member launching telecom data analytics platform Apertio and health analytics startup Apervita. Apertio was acquired by Nokia-Siemens in 2008. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors for WISEcode LLC, and chair of the board of directors for the not-for-profit Nutrient Institute that is elevating nutrition science through data.

