



Presidents Leadership Class  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

PLC  
**ALUMNI**

## **Alumni Newsletter April 2020**

# **Food for Thought**

### **A Timely PLC Testimonial**

written by Elaine Shults, PLC 2012

It goes without saying, these are very trying times...and probably like most of you, I've been practicing social distancing over the past few weeks. A "positive" from all this is that it's given me time to reflect on the state of my life, how I got here, and how incredibly lucky and grateful I am.

I recently accepted an offer of Global Regulatory Intelligence Policy Lead for my company, Genentech. The definition of "regulatory intelligence" can be broad but summarized as "the monitoring, gathering and analyzing of publicly available and experience-based regulatory information to develop a strategy for time- and cost-efficient drug development." This will mean lots of engagement with FDA, EMA, NMPA (China) & all other Health Authorities that we work with to market products, as well as trade associations such as PhRMA & BIO.

It's a huge challenge with no playbook, which I find both daunting and exciting. In this time of reflection, the greatest realization I have had is how much more there still is to learn. I recognize that I would not have these opportunities or even be engaging in this reflection if I hadn't joined PLC. PLC taught me so much through countless conversations, experiences, and interactions with my PLC peers and professional staff.

I'm excited for this next chapter, while also concerned for the current state of public health & our institutions as we once knew them - mixed emotions, for sure.

I hope you are well and that our paths cross again soon.

# CU Boulder COVID-19 Support Fund

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## **Bufs Together**

### **Supporting CU Boulder Students Affected by COVID-19**

As you already know, many CU Boulder students and staff members are experiencing the negative impacts as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Although many CU students are able to return home to their families and communities, not all Bufs are having the same experience. Due to this pandemic, a growing number of Bufs - especially those most vulnerable at this time are facing circumstances in which they require necessary resources and support (including food, shelter, transportation, internet access, etc.) in order to be safe and stay healthy.

As this is an immensely overwhelming time for so many Bufs in our community, the best way to deal with the situation at hand as a CU Boulder community is to stand together and support one another, together as Bufs, #ShoulderToShoulder.

For this reason, CU students established this fundraiser with the help of CU's Administration and are asking you to extend a helping hand to the CU Boulder students adversely affected by the global coronavirus pandemic. All funds raised through this campaign will benefit CU Boulder's Student Emergency Fund, which helps students in need pay bills due to lost wages, secure technology for remote learning, and gain access to food and healthcare.

**[Click here to visit the #ShouldertoShoulder Campaign Site](#)**

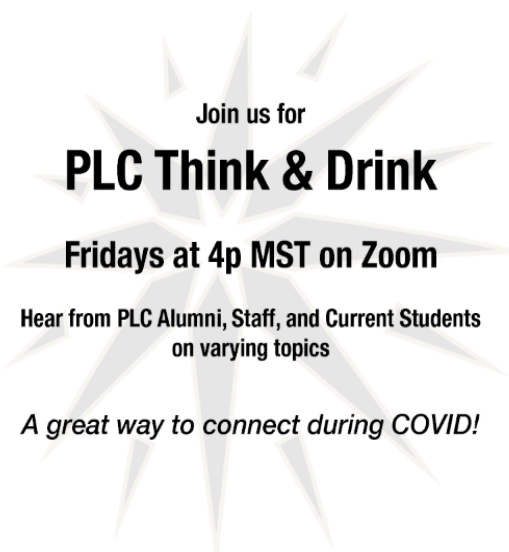
# Upcoming Events

**You are cordially invited to join us - via Zoom - to think and drink with your fellow Alumni!**

Starting Friday, April 24, we will be hosting a virtual session to connect PLC Alumni through conversation and a happy hour. These sessions will be led by PLC staff, alumni, and even current students.

Please feel free to share with your PLC friends and encourage folks to check it out. We would love to see you call and say hello and share your thoughts and insights about the topics at hand.

You can find the logistical details below. We are looking forward to 'seeing' you!



**Simply click the blue links below to be connected to the Zoom meeting!**

**April 24 - Aaron Roof, Director of PLC**

[\*A Conversation about Leadership Lessons of Michael Scott - Leading Through Crisis\*](#)

**May 1 - Andy Hawk, PLC 1998**

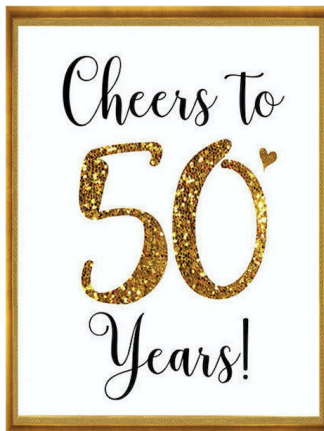
[\*The Lasting Impacts of COVID-19 and How We Approach Business\*](#)

**May 8 - Jesús Bañuelos-Rivera, Current PLCer (2016)**

[\*PLC's Pedagogic Approach to Leadership\*](#)

**May 15 - Could Be You!**

[\*Email Emily Walsh if you are interested in leading a session\*](#)



## **Happy Birthday, PLC!**

Believe it or not, the Presidents Leadership Class will be celebrating its 50th birthday in the Fall of 2022! We are in the process of planning a great weekend of events and celebrations. We are hoping to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our alumni over the years, the work that our current students are engaged with and look forward to many more years of success for PLC.

Stay tuned for more information in the next few months! If you'd like to be involved in the planning of the 50th Anniversary weekend, let us know.

**[Submit photos for the Anniversary weekend here!](#)**

# Alumni Spotlights

## Wisdom Amouzou, PLC 2009

*Co-Founder and Executive Director at Empower Community High School*



### **What about your PLC experience, if anything, led you to found Empower Community High School?**

I started studying engineering at CU so PLC was my outlet to explore my other passions at different levels. My biggest passion was probably the injustices in education. I distinctly remember my first presentation in PLC where I walked people through the average experience of a low-income family trying to navigate the public school system. Three things come to mind right away. PLC helped me learn how to process injustice and pushed me to start thinking of solutions. My peers and I all had different values and interests, but they were the community that I could come to and be serious with about these issues. The other major thing I took away from PLC was my experience teaching. I was a first and second-year CA. I also worked with the Recruitment and Selection team. You could call me a PLC superfan. PLC has allowed me to be able to look at my specific problems at Empower and examine it even deeper every week.

### **Would you say that Empower models PLC at all?**

Definitely. There are two main things that are modeled in light of PLC. The first is experiential learning. Experiential learning is a very major part of what we do at Empower. We have a model called FLOW that are student-led projects that are meant to directly impact their community. It is a 2-hour block that allows for students to work through the design and implementation of a solution to a social justice issue in their community. It is completely student-driven which makes it special. The second thing that we do that is very similar to PLC is the presence of guest speakers. I can still remember our Tuesday night guest speakers and how influential those were for me. I think giving students access to speakers is invaluable.

**[Learn more about the amazing things happening at Empower here](#)**

## **Teju Ravilochan, PLC 2004**

*COVID-19 Outreach Lead at Aunt Bertha & Initiative Lead at Monday.vc*



### **What is Aunt Bertha?**

Aunt Bertha connects anyone in need, anywhere in the United States, to free and reduced-cost programs that can help them - think of it as a Yelp for Social Services. Aunt Bertha now lists 366,000 program locations across the country. That makes it the largest, most comprehensive, most actively used network of social services in the United States. When COVID-19 hit, it was particularly well-positioned to help. The team at Aunt Bertha spun up [FindHelp.org](https://findhelp.org), which includes all of Aunt Bertha's program listings as well as 2,000 additional pandemic-specific programs (like mutual aid groups, drive-up testing sites) and 37,000 updated programs (whose offerings have been supplemented or changed in response to COVID-19).

### **How did you get involved with this organization?**

In early March of this year, I had moved out of my place in Oakland and given away most of my things to go live in a monastery in upstate New York for 3 months (and possibly longer) on a meditation retreat. I arrived in New York, prepared to go, but because of COVID-19, the monastery closed down and wouldn't admit new visitors. So, I headed for my parents' place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which is where I am now (hunkered down for the pandemic). After I got here, I became curious about how I could be of service in this time when so many people were wrestling with the fallout of COVID-19. So I reached out to my friend Tyler to ask if Aunt Bertha needed help. I intended to help out as a volunteer, but the team was kind enough to give me a job! So now I am leading up outreach for Aunt Bertha to make sure everyone in need right now knows that FindHelp.org (Aunt Bertha's COVID-specific site) is here to help.

**[Check out Aunt Bertha's COVID-19 Specific Resources here](https://findhelp.org)**

# PLC Today

## **Experiential Weekends Update**

As you are aware, PLC has always been committed to learning the lessons of leadership through experiential learning. PLC's Experiential Weekends are organized to give students the opportunities to interact with professionals who are leading the way in their areas of industry.

We are very fortunate that we have generous alumni who are willing to give their time and expertise to host our students on their Experiential Weekend endeavors. Below is a recap of what our Experiential Team, Lily DeMuth (2018) and Tom Heckmaster (2018) were able to put together this year!



"We had a blast planning and organizing the Experiential Weekends this past school year, and wanted to thank all of you that helped make them so impactful. In the Fall semester we had four weekends planned: Non-Profit, Outdoor Careers and Sustainability, Business and Finance, and Visual Arts and Performances. A special thanks to Erik Estrada, Tiffany Anderson and Tamra Ryan for educating the students about non-profits, as well as Ted Hamstra and Omega Wallace for sharing their expertise for the Business and Finance weekend.

Due to snow storms and cancellations due to COVID-19, our planned weekends in Spring semesters were not able to be seen to fruition. We had planned three new topics that we are hoping to bring to the calendar for next year: Transportation, Technology, and Ski Industry. Chris Jarrot, the past Executive Vice President of Vail Resorts, has offered to be one of the speakers and was helping us plan a weekend our students wouldn't forget in the mountains. We remain optimistic and excited for next semester!"





### **Featured Current Student Profile**

Meet Jesús Bañuelos-Rivera! Jesus is member of PLC 2016 from Fairplay, Colorado. Jesús was selected as the Newton Student Leader of the Year for 2019. He represented PLC at the Leo Hill Leadership Speaker Series lecture by Doris Kearns Goodwin on January 30, 2020.

Jesús has been a member of Student Staff and has served a CA for all of our classes! Jesus is also a member of PLC<sup>2</sup> and is actively involved in many other PLC events and activities.

Jesús will be graduating in May of 2020 with a degree in Sustainable Planning and Design. He is hoping to pursue work that is geared towards solving affordable housing issues. He believes that safe, quality housing can empower people to not only become self-advocates, but advocates for their community as well.

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**We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the  
PLC Class of 2016 to the Alumni Community!**



**Congratulations on your graduation!**

[Click here to learn more about each of these graduates on their PLC profile pages.](#)

# Reconnect



## **Class Champion Initiative**

To support our commitment to the reengagement of our Alumni Community, we are increasing efforts from our Class Champions. These Champions will be striving to reconnect with all of our alumni, pushing out information about the program, current students, involvement opportunities, event invitations and much more!

If you have any questions about who your Champion is, or if you have any interest in becoming a Class Champion, please contact [emily.allen-1@colorado.edu](mailto:emily.allen-1@colorado.edu).

**Become a PLC  
Mentor**

**Join the Alumni  
Board**

**Make a Donation  
to PLC**

**Click here to update your contact information with us!**

**Go Buffs!**

[www.colorado.edu/plc](http://www.colorado.edu/plc)