

Featured Alumni - Devon Tivona (PLC '10)

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*Entrepreneur
CEO and Founder - Pana*

Devon Tivona loves being surrounded by talented people that are willing to grow and adapt. This is the reason PLC was such a great experience for Devon here at CU Boulder, and the very same reason he has successfully launched his start-up career just two years out of undergrad. Devon loved the challenges that PLC presented in the classroom and encouraged him to tackle in real life situations. Devon describes PLC as a program that not only helped him prepare for the challenges he faces as an entrepreneur, but one that is also teaching students how to think proactively and creatively.

As a member of the PLC Class of 2010, Devon graduated from CU in 2014 with a degree in Computer Science and a passion for entrepreneurship. Devon jumped into the start-up world through Boulder Tech Stars with his original company, Native. However, when Devon saw an opportunity to better the traveling experience, he decided to pivot and capitalize on the idea with a new app called Pana, a 21st century travel agency that brings humanity back into travel by providing 24/7 travel support to customers. As the CEO and founder, Devon's role changes every day, and he works to ensure that his team is striving toward the vision of growing and the company, evolving the product, and one day being the go-to source for helping companies with corporate travel.

With his connections in the app start-up community he has been able to bring internship opportunities back to current PLC members by connecting students with a growing app called Empath. Devon sees PLCers as the best and brightest of CU. He gives back to the program through finding and offering opportunities like Empath campus ambassadors, and sparking the entrepreneurial spirit in PLC students. Reflecting on his time at CU, Devon's one piece of advice to current students is to take advantage of the opportunities Boulder has to offer, especially in the entrepreneurial sector.

Devon is still connected to his PLC cohort and in his free time, meets up with a group of young PLC alum in the Denver area to discuss current issues. He also enjoys exploring the city and meeting new people, and though Devon is busy running his company, he doesn't let that stop him from having fun whenever he can.
