

Reflections from a Ricardo Salinas Scholar on the First Movers Summit

by Felipe Botero
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Dear Selection Committee,

First of all, I want to thank the Aspen team and most of all the folks at the Ricardo Salinas Foundation for the support that I received to attend the First Mover Summit in Chicago. It would not have been possible for me to attend without that help.

I arrived at the McDonald's corporate campus hotel on Thursday evening and immediately connected with other Fellows during a welcoming reception. The Fellows are all passionate and driven people engaged in very important work, with great diversity and it is always an inspirational time spent with them. This collaborative spirit is a very important part of the Fellowship and it continued throughout the Summit.

During the opening session on Friday, I was asked to read a poem (in Spanish) that I recently submitted to our poetry circle, "The Traveler" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. This poem was very appropriate since most of us were traveling, but all of us recognize that we are on a journey together and that although the destination is important, we must also make the most of each and every part of the trek.



On Friday, I also co-facilitated a session on the future of the First Mover program titled "spreading the word". We recognize that we are building a movement to change the world. The session was dynamic with some very good insights and ideas generated. The key area of consensus was the need to generate support and spokesman ship for the program from senior business leaders. The kind of leadership that the Ricardo Salinas Foundation has shown.

On Saturday, I led a group of about 20 Fellows and guests in a session focused on Financial Inclusion. There are many Fellows who are working in this area with the largest financial services organizations and bring a ton of experience and knowledge to the table. It was a great sharing opportunity and I know that we all walked away with a renewed sense of commitment and even a plan for next steps to keep the conversation going.

Thanks, again.

Felipe Botero

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