

October 23, 2017

Latinos and Society Program
Aspen Institute
One Dupont Circle, Ste. 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear members of the Latinos and Society Program,

Hello my name is Felix Moran. I grew up in the state of Arizona the city of Phoenix. There is just desert here and not as much trees as I would like to see. Well my experience in Aspen, Colorado was one of a kind. Being able to fly from Phoenix, AZ to Denver, Colorado was a quick flight. I made it to Aspen, Colorado a couple hours later. Once I woke up to see the outside my window was covered with snow. I was astonished to see snow; it's rare to see snow back home in Phoenix, AZ.

I texted a friend I met from the Aspen convention back in Boston his name is Hector Mendoza. We became very good friends and we stay connected with each other through social media. I also met a new youth in this Aspen Convention named Lenina Garcia. It's amazing to see new youth coming to these conventions; especially since most of the time this is their first time traveling. I had the privilege to introduce her to the other community youth leaders. Once she had the opportunity to start talking to them all she felt just like at home. We are all family and we want nothing but, the best for each other. I told her to stay connected with all of us in the social media group we created called "OYIF Young Leaders".

I also had the opportunity to be a part of a panel. That to me was a very new and exciting experience. Being able to talk to employers and letting know how they can make a difference to help future employers. I enjoyed being able to communicate with all the Youth Leaders from across the country.

I enjoyed the workshops and the youth meetings. I always enjoy the opportunity to hear from other youth leaders and the impact they are doing in their community. I feel like it motivates me and pushes me to do a lot more. It's also a learning experience for me, especially being in a very diverse group. I always learn something new because we all have had different challenges growing up.

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I want to thank you all for making this possible for me. I hope I get the approved for next time also because, there is so much more for me to learn with the youth leaders. I also hope I get the opportunity to lead a small workshop for networking with the Youth Leaders. This is such a great opportunity to network and I would want them to take advantage of every second they have there. I can't wait to hear from other youth that got approved for the Ricardo Salinas Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Felix Moran
Arizona Center for Youth Resources (ACYR)