



To the Ricardo Salinas Scholarship Committee

It's a very rare opportunity that affords one the ability to connect past and present in a way that brings some of the earliest memories in life with the most recent. Yet that's exactly what participating in the Aspen Institute's fringe diplomatic envoy enabled for me. Thank you for the scholarship that made this all possible.

As the CEO of a product company, my contributions to the Incubate program allowed me to share the insights and techniques we employ with innovation teams at Fortune 500 companies with an emergent class of entrepreneurs and makers. As a person who is committed to giving back to his community, this workshop provided me with a chance to take that mission from a local level to a global scale.

As a Cuban-American, this trip impacted me on a much deeper and personal level. I was able to reflect on my childhood, the sacrifices that my father and grandparents made, and understand my upbringing through an entirely different lens. It has brought me closer to my father than I've ever been.

In Cuba, I was not only able to connect my skills and insights with a generation of like-minded entrepreneurs, but I was also able to connect with family that has been kept apart for generations.

I've enclosed a [link](#) to a draft of a piece that I've been writing on what that meant for me. Please accept this personal story as a small token of my gratitude.

I cannot thank you enough for enabling this adventure.

Forever in your gratitude,

Marcelino J. Alvarez  
Chief Executive Officer  
Uncorked Studios