Fellow Name: Jesus Loayza

PIFP Partner Organization: Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Please give a brief description of what you do for your organization:
I’ll be conducting data analysis for my organization’s different project needs around wages, employment, poverty, and health in Colorado. When there is a research question that comes up in a grant or policy issue, I’ll be the first one to take a crack at answering it. My work is intended to fuel our overall policy analysis and find the areas of most need and impact.

What’s the most interesting thing you’ve learned in your fellowship so far?
In Colorado, the path to seeing a bill pass is never straight. There are hordes of people, organizations, volunteers, and community members who weigh in on a decision, testify before committees, and write to their congresspersons. There are countless of hours spent researching the impact, both positive and negative, of a policy suggestion. Rules and regulations must be reviewed. Implementation plans must be designed. Compromises are made throughout. Sometimes, simply on language. Other times, on substantial content. There are countless revisions and rewrites before it is perfected, or passable. My organization is at the intersection of all this. That’s quite interesting to me.

Why did you want to become a PIFP Fellow?
The program offered just what I wanted to do after college (dare I say the rest of my life): serve the public interest. I was brought up to be concerned for my neighbor’s well-being. That will be as much a part of me as any limb. I also wanted to see how effective both law and policy can be as agents for change. I wanted to begin applying my talents and efforts to a cause I most certainly believe has a real impact on the lives of my fellow Coloradans. The PIFP positioned me to do just that.

What activities outside of your work do you enjoy?
I enjoy getting lost in a good comic book. I’ve also recently loved the feeling of falling into the magic of a theatre production. I like commenting on art I don’t understand, employing adjectives I rarely use. I blast NPR in the car, while showering, as I’m falling asleep, etc. I also like to “ball up,” or as it is more commonly known in other circles, play basketball.

**What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?**
I recently became a great uncle. I was quite surprised/blessed by the news as well.