



G E O G R A P H Y

ALUMNI

Jonathan Iniesta

Geographically speaking, where do you come from?

My roots are of Mexican and Spanish descent. Born in Mexico, and like many others, I was brought to the United States at two years of age.

Where are you studying geography now?

I studied Geography at Cerritos College and earned a BA in Geography at California State University Long Beach (CSULB).

How is Geography there different than at Cerritos?

The introduction and inspiration received at Cerritos was an essential foundation for my continued education at CSULB. The expanded coursework at CSULB detailed the complexities of Human Geography and the implications that such study has in many fields.

What type of Geography are you studying now? Do you have a specialty? Any research experience? If so, tell us about it.

As a graduate student in Public Policy, and working in urban planning, I professionally study the built environment and how it interacts with the everyday lives of the public. This intersects with policy in how new ordinances affect people differently with respects to social and environmental justice, equity, equality, and opportunities.

What would you tell a student at Cerritos College interested in potentially majoring in Geography?

Geography has a such a vast path of opportunity that the major attracts many different careers. These could be options in physical, human, environmental, and other geography-related careers. For me, Geography in a human concentration was ideal for my career path in Planning. I would also suggest visiting the career center to look into the specific jobs Geography affords.

What do you hope to do professionally once you have your Geography degree?

While I already have my Geography degree, and as I complete my Masters in Public Policy, I hope to be placed at the intersection of human interaction and decision makers. Many communities are faced with a lack of representation in decision making at a local level. As such, I hope to help diversify decisions and voice concern from a perspective of underrepresented communities.

