Leonardo Piñero-Pérez graduated with an Honors degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2018 from the University of Texas at Arlington. Leonardo works in the flight controls team at Bell on the 525 Relentless Program, the world's first civilian fly-by-wire helicopter. He previously interned at Bell as a structural analyst supporting the unmanned MQ-8C Fire Scout Program.  
  
Leonardo's honors thesis involved optimizing sizing parameters of trans-atmospheric vehicles for orbital inclination-change capability. During his final undergraduate semester, he conducted research under Dr. David Hullender, studying non-Newtonian flow through an annular ring. This stems from Leonardo’s honors project in the previous semester, which called for designing control logic for a variable-displacement pump to maximize flow and pressure DC gains from an unknown, time-variant system such as a hydraulic fracturing well. While at UT Arlington, he served as the President of the American Helicopter Society student chapter and functioned as the Treasurer of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics student chapter.  
  
In his spare time, Leonardo enjoys backpacking and reading science fiction.