PIFP Mentor Profile

Name: Erin Bennett

How would you like fellows to contact you? Email (erinbenn@gmail) is best. Calling or texting my phone also works fine – 303-601-9510

CC graduation year: 2006

Other education: None

Current employment position: State Director of 9to5 Colorado

Experience/areas of interest:
Nonprofit experience: Grassroots organizing, fundraising (grant proposals/reports, individual donors, special events), strategic campaign planning and implementation (state legislative policies, state and municipal ballot initiatives), supervising and developing staff, membership recruitment, leadership development, organizational development, leading and facilitating workshops and trainings – including anti-oppression trainings.

Issue experience: Economic justice, equal opportunity/anti-discrimination, gender equity, separation of church and state, LGBTQ equality

Why have you chosen to work in (or support) the nonprofit sector? I want to have a career where my job aligns with my values and where I feel like I am making a difference on the issues that matter most to me. I love going to work every day and feeling inspired by my co-workers, allies, and constituents and getting to see our hard work pay off through state and local policy changes that directly benefit the lives of my members and their families.

Why have you chosen to be a PIFP mentor? The PIFP is where I got my career started. I feel very strongly that without my fellowship at Citizens Project, I wouldn’t be where I am today. It’s so hard to get a foot in the door in the nonprofit sector without any experience or a higher degree, and my fellowship gave me the needed experience to be able to apply for other jobs in the nonprofit sector when my fellowship was over. It gave me exposure to many different areas of work within a nonprofit, and also helped me really
decide what kind of issues and approach would be the right fit for me. At the same time, though – it can be a very overwhelming experience. And since the CC experience is so unique, adjusting to a fast-paced nonprofit right after graduating can be a tough adjustment. I’m really happy to be able to help provide mentorship, guidance, and advice to someone in the same position I was in 9 years ago.

**What’s your favorite book or movie?** My favorite book is Jitterbug Perfume by Tom Robbins, and my favorite movie is Jurassic Park (and I *cannot wait* for Jurassic World to come out!)

**What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?** Maybe not a surprise to some, but I’m currently running for State Senate in Denver. I’m also an avid poker player and have a secret dream of becoming a professional poker player.