Your Name: Zoe Gibson

Your PIFP Organization: National Conference of State Legislatures: Education Program

Please give a brief description of what you do for your organization:
As the summer fellow for the education program at NCSL, I track legislation, research and write legislative briefs, respond to legislators’ information requests, attend legislative meetings and forums to assist state policy makers in gathering information and composing potential legislation, and I help my colleagues in promoting fact-based education policy.

What’s the most interesting thing you’ve learned in your fellowship so far?
In my fellowship thus far, I’ve learned many very interesting things about myself, about nonprofit work, about state policy and about people in general. Probably most interesting however, was when I had the opportunity to attend a legislative conference about working families. At the conference, I assisted two legislators (one democrat and one republican) from Utah in researching and compiling ideas and action plans for developing new legislation to better support working families in their state. It was fascinating to see how two individuals from different parties could work together and utilize my help in pursuit of one goal.

Why did you want to become a PIFP Fellow?
Throughout high school and the beginning of college, I’ve had many opportunities to engage in on-the-ground advocacy and community service. Looking to expand my knowledge and experience base and hoping for a fellowship position that would allow me to be a part of more systematic change, I applied to become a PIFP Fellow. At NCSL, I’m getting to do just that!

What activities outside of your work do you enjoy?
Outside of my work, I enjoy long afternoons in the park and cooking delicious meals to share with friends.

What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?
I have never read the Harry Potter books.