Fellow Name: Anna Squires

PIFP Partner Organization: ProgressNOW Colorado

Please give a brief description of what you do for your organization: I’m the digital media fellow for ProgressNOW, a liberal advocacy group. The backbone of my summer work is to design and carry out a research project on the demographics of political pundits in Colorado (the idea being that most “experts” invited onto Colorado’s political television and radio shows probably follow the model of “white, male, and Yale”). When I finish the quantitative side, I will package my research into a visually pleasing format for the general public using graphic design, photography, videography, or audio design…or all of the above!

What’s the most interesting thing you’ve learned in your fellowship so far? Working at a nonprofit means that you wear all the hats, all the time. Your job description is never a full story of the work you’ll accomplish. On my second day on the job, I was trained to use a video camera in three minutes and dispatched to film a press conference held in protest of a racist Colorado representative. The next day, I rushed out of a staff meeting to film Governor Hickenlooper on the steps of the State Capitol as he demanded Donald Trump apologize for his belittling remarks about federal judge Curiel. Then it was back to the grindstone on my research project (after editing the footage for our Facebook page, of course).

Why did you want to become a PIFP Fellow? Studying at CC has taught me that I thrive when I get to take initiative and jump straight into projects. I don’t like to do the same job every day, and I don’t like to sit behind a desk. What I do like is to be called upon to use every resource at my disposal to accomplish a variety of tasks that I may not have ever done before. It keeps my energy levels high and my creativity flowing. So why did I want to become a PIFP fellow? Because the nonprofit sector seemed like a natural fit for that work style. It allows me to link my diverse skillset and accomplish tasks with creativity, high energy, and – dare I say it? – a little joy, too.

What activities outside of your work do you enjoy?
Yoga! I practice yoga between five and seven times a week. (One of the great joys of my fellowship in Denver is that my favorite yoga studio is fifteen steps from my apartment.) When I’m not on the mat, you can find me catching up on current events, eating inordinate amounts of hummus, or scoping out craft coffee and cocktail joints.

**What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?**
I’ve been known to moonlight as a go-go dancer.