



## Prosperity Now Conference Reflections By Kris Cooley, 2018

As a young advocate, I was excited and honored to be chosen for a scholarship to attend the Prosperity Summit conference, awarded by the World Institute of Disability and JPMorgan Chase. My name is Kris Cooley, and I am an Intake Specialist for Ability360, located in Phoenix, Arizona. I work with consumers who have disabilities and are receiving Social Security benefits, to understand what returning to work will do to their current benefits. The purpose is to give them a sense of financial empowerment and stability. So the ability for me to attend a conference that is focused on financial empowerment is a pretty substantial event in my professional career.

Over the course of three days at the Prosperity Now Conference, I learned a lot about the financial world's values and initiatives to making our world a better, more secure, and wealthy place. The hope is that wealth will be something attainable by the least as much as by the elite. I heard from mayors from all over the country who made sustainable change to their cities as far as savings programs and asset development. I learned that millennials are saving at a rapidly growing rate, and I was challenged by peers to find ways to remove the barriers of place when dealing with health and its correlation to wealth.



Kris as a Disability Ambassador

I believe that the Conference Accessibility Initiative through WID and JPMorgan Chase will make a difference in profound ways for people with disabilities. As one who has an invisible disability, I was welcomed and humbled to be a Disability Ambassador to this conference. This experience will have a lasting impression on me personally and has already helped me to grow professionally.

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Kris Cooley is an Intake Specialist for Ability360, located in Phoenix, Arizona. Ability360 promotes programs to empower people with all disabilities to take personal responsibility so that they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community. One program at Ability360 that Kris assists with is called CWIC in the Benefits 2 Work program, which helps consumers with SSI benefits figure out how work will affect their incomes.



Kris at Capitol Hill