

2025–2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RECIPIENT



Brittnei Palkert

Brittnei Palkert is a dual-degree student in Global Policy Studies and Latin American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, focusing on development, migration, and democracy-building.

Brittnei interned with CID Gallup, a socioeconomic research firm in Panama City, Panama, through UT Austin's Embedded Scholars Program. CID Gallup trained its interns to conduct primary research through surveys, interviews, and focus groups; develop client business proposals; analyze data; and produce client reports. The research Brittnei found most exciting focused on the Panama Canal, where interns supported in-person surveys and focus groups on the canal's expansion and U.S. involvement in its operations. Brittnei observed focus group participants alongside U.S. Embassy staff and gathered insights into Panamanians' perceptions of the United States and China.

Collecting primary data on significant foreign affairs questions reaffirmed Brittnei's long-term career goals. She hopes to lead monitoring and evaluation for global projects at international organizations such as the World Bank or the United Nations.