

2025–2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RECIPIENT



Caleb Mulugeta

Caleb Mulugeta is a Government and Economics student at The University of Texas at Austin.

Over the summer, Caleb worked with the National Democratic Institute in Armenia, where he supported research on democratic governance, public opinion, and parliamentary institutions. He analyzed several years of public-opinion data to identify shifts in Armenians' attitudes toward democracy, political institutions, and the country's future, and he researched parliamentary oversight and committee activity. He also observed local elections and spoke with parliamentary staff, civil society representatives, and other professionals working on governance and democratic development.

The internship gave Caleb a clearer view of how political institutions work beyond their formal rules and structures. Understanding governance, he found, also requires looking at how institutions function in practice, how citizens perceive them, and how political actors respond to changing circumstances. The experience strengthened his interest in comparative politics, institutional development, and law and will inform both his academic research and his longer-term goal of a career in law and public service.