

# MEDIA Coverage



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## Centenary hopes to maintain title as nation's school with largest percentage of students registered to vote

By Priscilla Liguori



Centenary University is looking to hold onto its title as the nation's school with the largest percentage of students registered to vote. It competes in a non-partisan competition aimed at educating students about politics and elections.

"This clipboard right here pretty much became my child, because I never let it go," said Osaivbie Igiebor, a junior at Centenary University. "It was always in my bag. People kept saying, 'Osaivbie, why do you have that that clipboard with you?' I'm like, 'I'm glad you asked. Did you register to vote?'"

Centenary University is hoping for its second win in a row in a competition that gets students registered to vote.

Ballot Bowl is a New Jersey contest that works with the website ALL IN To Vote, which is used nationwide.

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"Once you register to vote, it becomes a habit," said Kathleen Greco, the director of campus engagement and student leadership at Centenary University.

As of Monday, Centenary was leading the national standings with almost 9% of the student body registered to vote. Right now, the next closest competitor has nearly 3%.

Organizers admit size at the 1,500-student school does help with percentages.

"But it says a lot that our students are motivated," said Greco.

Among those students are Onoshobe Itunoyamusa, who can't vote because she's not an American citizen, but says she goes out of her way every day to encourage others to do so.

"One person makes a huge difference," said Itunoyamusa, a senior at Centenary University. "You never know what your voting is going to do to the rest of the world."

There are events like Ballots and Bagels, Pizza and Politics, Dialogues and Deeds, though students say the most successful strategy is simple conversation.

"It's the taking people through that process, understanding why you're voting who you're voting for, what the issues really are," said Mathias O'Neio, a senior at Centenary University.

Grant money from Engage NJ is being used to focus on freshmen.

"Why can't we get 100% of our first year's registered to vote, and that will carry through if we do it every year. Eventually, all of our students, by natural course of action will be registered to vote," said Greco.

That means this effort won't end Election Day but will be ongoing on campus.

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