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A CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION

The Recorder

OCTOBER 14TH, 2026 VOLUME 139, ISSUE III

Student Voters Mull, Nominees Not Hearing Them

by Ronan Hinckley
Contributor

Connecticut voters will choose a governor in less than four weeks, and for many students at Central Connecticut State University, it will be their first election. The state has even put an early voting site on the CCSU campus. Most students say they plan to cast a ballot, but far fewer can say who they will vote for.

Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont, 72, is seeking a third term against Republican state Senator Ryan Fazio, 36, of Greenwich. A Quinnipiac University poll of 1,288 likely voters, released Sept. 16, showed Lamont leading 55 percent to 38 percent, with 5 percent undecided.



Current Governor and Incumbent, Ned Lamont, runs for a third term.

The Office of Governor Ned Lamont

The same poll found that 45 percent of likely voters hadn't heard enough about Fazio to form an opinion of him. Only 27 percent of Lamont supporters and 39 percent of Fazio supporters described themselves as "very enthusiastic."

That gap in information is visible on campus. Ashley Franco and Grace Thomas, both 18-year-old freshmen, said they are registered and intend to vote. However, neither has looked into the candidates yet.

"Honestly, I haven't looked into that right now," Franco said. "I definitely will, but it's not the top priority for me at the moment."



House Representative Ryan Fazio looks to unseat Lamont this fall.

James Naleski

Thomas said the same. She hasn't researched the individuals on the ballot. She suggested the university could help by setting aside one session of a required first-year class for general education about each candidate.

Both students were clear about what would win their votes, and it comes down to cost. "Paying tuition, going to school, that's a huge thing," Franco said. Thomas added a higher minimum wage and lower interest rates on student loans to the list.

Their concerns match those of the wider electorate.

***MULL** continued on page 6*

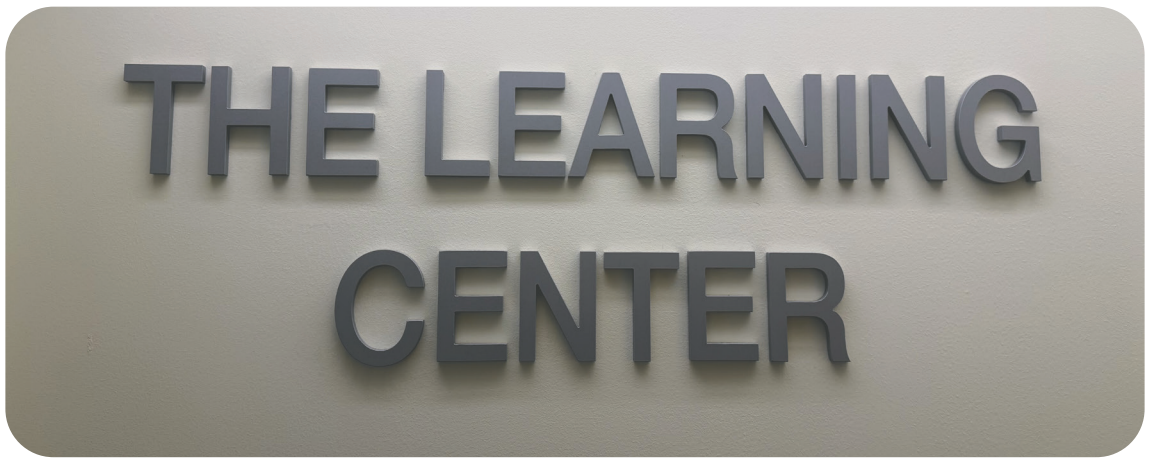
Midterm Madness? Find Balance In Your Busy Semester

by Ny'Asia Martin
Lifestyle Editor

As midterms approach, students can find themselves juggling exams, assignments, work, and personal responsibilities. With many deadlines competing for their attention, keeping a consistent and balanced routine can become difficult.

However, getting back on track does not have to mean you have to completely reorganize your life. Small changes to a student's daily routine can make managing midterms and the busy rest of the semester more manageable.

For some college students, like CCSU senior Bianca Menelas, midterms mean spending more time studying and less time on other activities like spending time with friends or having time for self. Between multiple assignment deadlines and the tightness of the deadlines, managing time can become one of the biggest challenges.



The Learning Center is located on the third floor of Willard-DiLoreto Hall.

Noah Gavin

"The hardest part is managing my time and making sure I have time for everything which can be difficult when you have multiple assignments due in a day," the senior student said.

When deadlines pile up, some students sacrifice sleep to finish their work. Menelas said she has stayed up all night completing assignments and preparing for exams.

"Although all the work gets done and I feel accomplished I usually feel tired the next day."

One way students can regain control of their schedules is by organizing their assignments and prioritizing upcoming deadlines. Writing down exam dates on a calendar, dedicating time for individual subjects, and breaking larger assignments into smaller tasks can make a busy week feel more manageable.

CCSU sophomore Marishka Tulien says she avoids cramming by studying in sections and setting earlier deadlines for assignments.

" I study in chunks instead of cramming, and I set fake due dates that are sooner than the regular ones for assignments," Tulien said.

Tulien also utilizes college apps designed to help with organization and help students stay up to date with deadlines.

"I use an app called CollegeCal, where I upload all my syllabus. The app organizes the important dates in a calendar for me. I also use the reminder app on my laptop so I can stay organized."

Staying organized isn't the only part of managing midterms. Students also need to make time for sleep, meals, and breaks.

According to Harvard Medical School's Division of Sleep Medicine, inadequate sleep can interfere with concentration and the brain's ability to retain newly learned information.

Taking breaks and maintaining a consistent sleep schedule can help students prioritize their well-being while managing their academic responsibilities.

ABOUT US

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CCSU Aids Student Parents With Affordable Drop-In Child Care



The Drop-In Child Center is located at Clarence Carroll Hall in Room 141.

ccsu.edu/childcare

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

The Central Connecticut State University Drop-In Child Care Center provides child care and educational programs for children of CCSU students, faculty and staff ages 3 to 12.

Licensed by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Education, the center has served more than 108 families and 148 children since opening in fall 2022. Children participate in programs based on registrations and reservations that meet their families' needs, and many children attend multiple programs. Eighty percent of the families have at least one student-parent who is currently enrolled at CCSU, while the remaining 20 percent are families of faculty and staff.

Central Drop-In Child Care Center Director Kelly McCarthy said the center is available to all CCSU families and is staffed with licensed educators with "experience in curriculum development."

"Most programs are available to enrolled student-parents at little or no additional cost. The same programs are available to our faculty and staff when openings are available, for an additional charge," McCarthy said.

The center enrolled 63 children in the 2023-24 academic year, 76 in 2024-25 and 64 in 2025-26, according to McCarthy.

The center currently can accommodate 48 children, and this number is expected to increase to 63 when the Community Pre-K program at Central Lab School opens in January 2027.

The center has received funding from several sources, including grants supporting child care and education. The Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS) program helps provide affordable child care to eligible student-parents who receive Pell Grants.

The university also received a grant from CHEFA, which provides competitive funding to eligible nonprofit organizations in areas including child care and education, according to McCarthy.

The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation provided funding for the center's Global Music and Movement Program for Early Learners. Renovations for the Community Pre-K program at Central Lab School were funded through The Lab Schools Investment Initiative, a partnership between the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Education and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.

McCarthy noted that programs offered by the Center include the Central Pre-K program, which provides "high-quality, play-based, early childhood experiences that foster creative thinking and problem solving."

"The Central Pre-K program was added, based on student-parent needs, in fall 2023 and has continued to grow over the years. The 2025-26 Central Pre-K class enrolled 15 students, more than doubling enrollment from the previous year," McCarthy said.

"The program runs Monday through Friday from 9 AM to noon. The program requires a $50 deposit and costs $50 to $125 per week, depending on the schedule selected. Student-parents in classes during Pre-K program hours can qualify for a tuition waiver based upon their schedule."

McCarthy added that the center offers Lunch Buddies for children ages 3 to 4 from noon to 1 PM and Rest Time from 1 to 3 PM. Both programs were created in response to student needs.

The center offers Drop-In Care Monday through Thursday from 3 to 7:30 PM.

#KizerSays

Yeah, I know ball.

Sportsball.

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Have a story that needs to be told? Tips or ledes that should be investigated? Email us at theccsurecorder@gmail.com

Families can register for Central Pre-K and Drop-In Care through CCSU's website.

CCSU junior Byron Rivera-Benitez said the center has helped his family balance child care with their college schedules.

"Having the advantage of childcare here has been a tremendous help," Rivera-Benitez said.

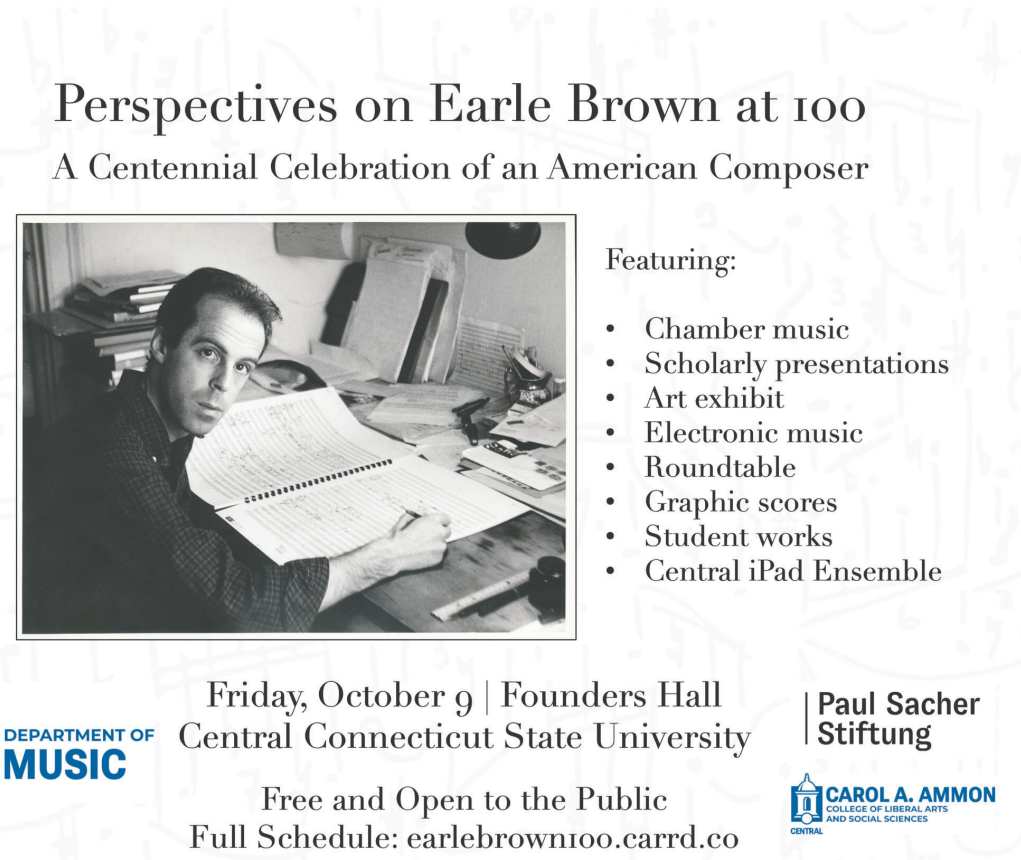
Rivera-Benitez and his wife both attend CCSU. Their two children attend the Center once a week, and since they are on campus at the same time, they can work out who picks them up.

Rivera-Benitez added that before using the Center, he and his wife relied on friends and family for child care, but their availability varied from week to week. He said having a reliable schedule has made it easier for both parents to attend classes.
"We know our schedules and we can plan what days we use the Childcare Center," Rivera-Benitez said.

Rivera-Benitez said he values the center's educational focus, including opportunities it provides his children to practice reading, writing and math.

"They focus on teaching our kids and that goes into helping them with their homework and reading and writing while they're at the Center," Rivera-Benitez said.

Seeing And Being In Sound: Earle Brown And Beyond



October 9 – November 12, 2026

The Chen Art Gallery is proud to present Seeing and Being in Sound: Earle Brown and Beyond. This exhibition is guest curated by Professor Drake Andersen (Department of Music) to honor the visionary American composer Earle Brown, whose centenary is being celebrated on Central's campus through the "Perspectives on Earle Brown at 100" event. This exhibition includes contributions from the faculty and students of the CCSU Department of Music and the Elihu Burritt Library.

Andersen writes, "it is perfectly natural to associate music with a sense of hearing. After all, music is composed of sounds. However, music is not only a sonic art form. At its best, it is an unrivaled sensory experience that touches us in unexpected ways. Seeing and Being in Sound: Earle Brown and Beyond invites listeners to not only listen to music, but also to look at it, to touch it, and to experience what it feels like to be immersed in it." Brown's scores, which range from subtle reimaginings of conventional musical notation to abstract geometric forms, are juxtaposed with graphic scores directly and indirectly inspired by his innovations, including works by Central Music Department faculty, students and alumni. Visitors are invited to examine these scores up close and interact with select installation pieces and sound recordings.

Exhibition dates run from October 9th to November 12th, 2026. The public is welcome to attend an opening reception and talk on Friday, October 9th from 12-1pm, part of the programming for the "Perspectives on Earle Brown at 100" campus event. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. There will also be an additional public gallery talk featuring demonstrations by some of the participating Music students on Thursday, October 22nd at 4pm. This exhibition is supported by the CCSU Department of Music, Ammon College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the Paul Sacher Stiftung.

Chen Art Gallery, Maloney Hall Room 202

Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT
06050

Regular Gallery Hours: M: 12-4 PM, T-F: 11 AM - 4 PM (except university holidays and closures). Free admission and free parking at Welte Garage, adjacent to the art building. Elevator access to the second floor.

Email: artgallery@ccsu.edu
Website: https://www.ccsu.edu/chenartgallery
Instagram: @chenartgallery

THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS EVENTS

Computer Science Club
AI Beyond the Classroom: Career, Software, & Entrepreneurship
Thursday 10/15 @ 3:15 PM
Robert C. Vance Academic Center 105

Political Science Club
Voter Registration Drive
Wednesday 10/14 @ 11:30 PM
Wells Street Lounge [Student Center Lobby]

Central Activities Network
Pumpkin Palooza
Tuesday 10/13 @ 6 PM
CAN Office [Student Center Room 203]

Student Center
Falling In Love With Central
Monday 10/19 @ 3 PM
Wells Street Lounge [Student Center Lobby]

Students Bring Fall And Halloween Spirit Into Their Dorms

by Jacob Savoy
Contributor

As temperatures drop and the leaves change at Central Connecticut State University, students are bringing the same fall feeling indoors. Whether they prefer a cozy autumn look or go all out for Halloween, decorating gives students a simple way to turn a standard dorm into a space that feels like their own.

For CCSU junior Ruby Scudder, decorating for the season is about creating a comfortable atmosphere in her room.

“I love to decorate for fall because it gives the room a different atmosphere and makes it more homey,” Scudder said. “Being at school, it’s nice to spice up your dorm and give it that feel like you’re at home, to have that space where you can wind down and relax.”

Fall decorations can range from small pumpkins and fake leaves to string l ights and blankets in autumn colors. As Halloween gets closer, some students shift toward a spookier look with ghosts, skeletons, and other Halloween decorations.

CCSU senior Salma Binetti takes a more Halloween-focused approach to decorating. Her room features a Halloween poster, along with lights that add a spooky atmosphere.

“Halloween is one of those holidays that you can really have fun decorating because there are levels to it,” Binetti said. “You can go the horror movie route, spooky route, or just simple cozy fall, and they all can add a different ambiance to your space.”

For students living on campus, decorating can also be a way to bond with roommates. Combining different decorating styles allows roommates to create a space that reflects each of their personalities while making their dorm feel more like home.

Whether students choose a cozy fall look or a more festive Halloween theme, decorating gives CCSU students a chance to bring the season into their dorms and make their spaces feel more homey.



Promotional Image featuring the 1996 cast; Peter Boyle, Brad Garrett, Patricia Heaton, Doris Roberts, and Ray Romano. imdb.com

Everybody Loves Raymond: A Review

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

Over two decades after its conclusion, the sitcom Everybody Loves Raymond is one of the most compelling tv shows to watch.

Raymond Barone, played by Ray Romano, lives in Lynbrook, New York with his wife Debra, daughter Ally, and twin sons, Michael and Geoffrey Barone.

Ray’s parents, Frank and Marie Barone, live across the street and often spend the majority of their time at Ray’s house, angering Debra who feels Marie is constantly intruding in their lives due to her opinions on how Debra cooks and maintains her home and the comments and obnoxious attitude Frank often shows to those around him.

Ray’s brother Robert Barone, struggles to cope with the success of his younger brother who is an accomplished sports writer and has started a family of his own.

Robert, who holds the rank of sergeant in the New York City Police Department, struggles to find someone with whom he would like to start a family, and does not get married to Amy McDougal until the eighth season of the series.

The series ran for nine consecutive seasons, allowing fans to see the progression of each character.

Michael and Geoffery’s actors, Sawyer and Sullivan Sweeten, were only one year old when they were hired to play the twins. By the end of the series nearly a decade later, they have become two of the show’s most memorable characters.

Ally, whose actress Madeline Sweeten is the older sister of Sawyer and Sullivan in real life as well in the series, takes good care of her two younger brothers and even begins babysitting them when she is old enough to take the burden off of Debra.

Amy is an extremely caring and forgiving person. She and Robert are introduced by Debra in the first season, but their relationship is rocky over the years.

After Robert moves out of his parents’ house and into his own apartment, he gets frustrated that Amy wants to discuss the next stage of their relationship, and the couple have an exchange of words and end their relationship.

Despite this, in the next season when Robert is injured on the job and ends up in the hospital, Amy pays him a visit to make sure he is okay.

After Robert heals from his injury and returns to work, Amy joins him and his family for a dinner to celebrate his recovery.

Their relationship takes a shocking turn in the fifth season, however.

When the Barone family takes a vacation to Italy, Robert ends up spending romantic time with a woman named Stefania, even though he has said that he is happy with and committed to his relationship with Amy.

Robert also later reveals to Raymond and Debra that he has been in contact with his ex-wife, Joanne, even though she treated him terribly when they were married.

When Robert chooses to come clean to Amy about his hidden relationships, she becomes extremely upset and cuts Robert off again. They do not speak for two seasons.

When they eventually rekindle their relationship in the seventh season, Robert finally decides that he is ready to commit to being with Amy for life.

Once Amy officially enters the Barone family, Marie and Debra appear to get along much better.

The three of them begin pressuring Raymond, Robert and Frank to be more open to communicating with each other.
Ultimately, Everybody Loves Raymond is much more than a tv sitcom. It is a relatable family drama that will continue to be popular among fans for many generations to come.

Outsider Candidates Find Success in Elections As Public Trust in Two Party System Declines

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

As temperatures drop and the leaves change at Central Connecticut State University, students are bringing the same fall feeling indoors. Whether they prefer a cozy autumn look or go all out for Halloween, decorating gives students a simple way to turn a standard dorm into a space that feels like their own.

Public confidence in America's two major political parties continues to decline.

Two separate surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center in May 2026 found that 58% of Americans do not have a positive outlook toward the Republican Party and another 59 percent view the Democratic Party unfavorably.

This may help to explain why outsider candidates have found increasing success over the past three decades.

Although these candidates ran on different platforms and in most cases were part of one of the two major parties, they all shared a common message and portrayed themselves as outsiders challenging the political system.

Businessman Ross Perot entered the 1992 presidential election and at one point led incumbent Republican president George H.W. Bush, and Democratic nominee Bill Clinton. Voters were looking for change due to a declining economy under Bush and his failed promise not to raise taxes.

Perot later suspended his campaign but reentered the election and secured 18.6 percent of the popular vote with 19,742,267 votes in total, as noted by the Electoral College Archives.

This was one of the most successful campaigns by an independent candidate since President Theodore Roosevelt, who ran on an independent line in 1912.

Donald Trump entered the race for president in 2016 as a Republican and secured the nomination over experienced Republican candidates including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Marco Rubio of Florida.

Trump won the nomination with 1,441 delegates and defeated Democratic candidate and former U.S. Secretary of State and First Lady Hillary Clinton in the general election winning 45.93 percent of the popular vote and 56.5 percent of the Electoral College vote, according to U.S. Election Atlas data.

Democratic socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez unseated Rep. Joe Crowley who had two decades of experience in Congress during the primary in 2018 to represent New York. She has since become a well-known progressive in the federal government.

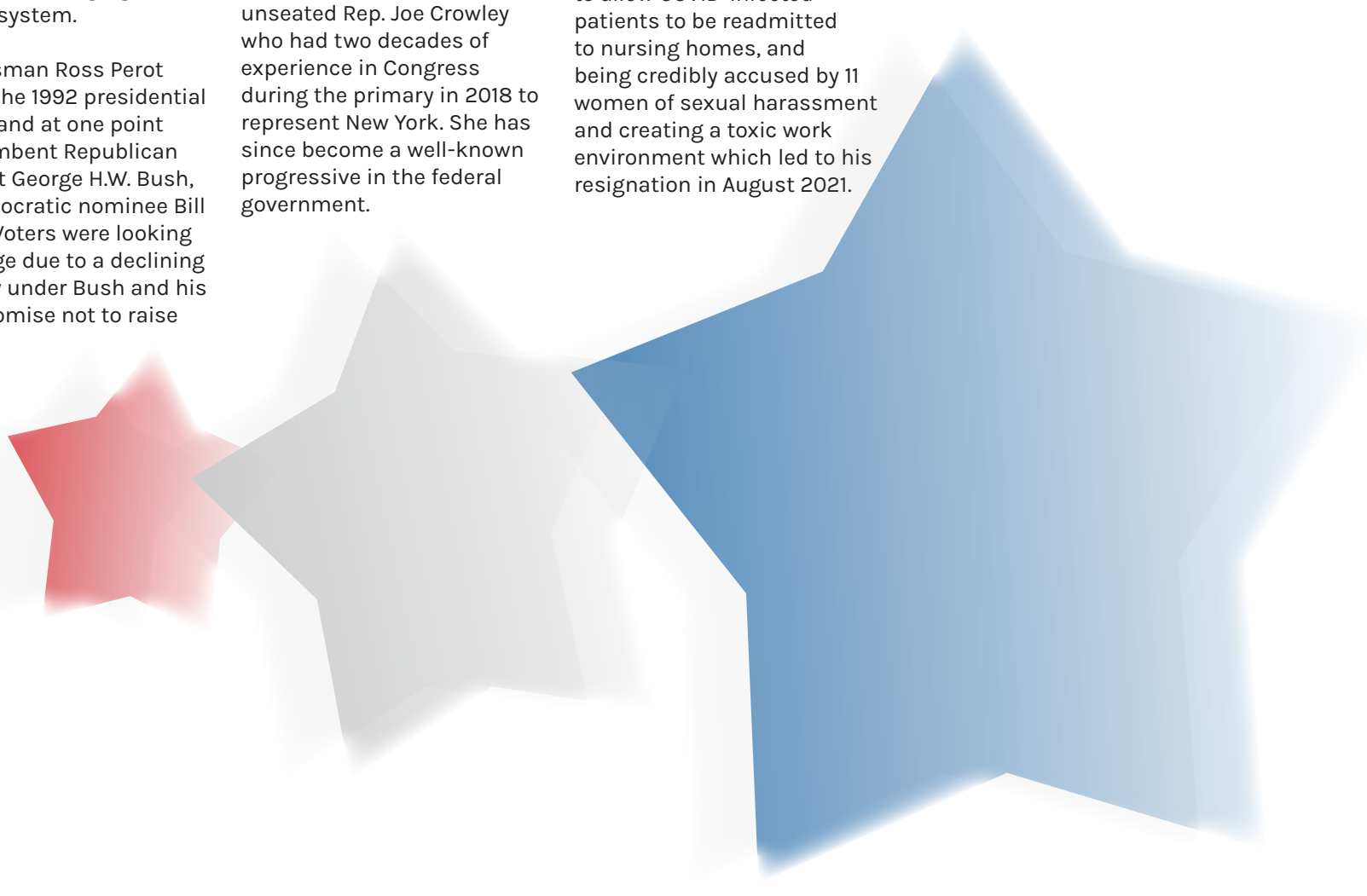
Zohran Mamdani found similar success in the 2025 New York City mayoral election where he defeated former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in both the Democratic primary with 56.6 percent of the vote and in the general election with over 50.8 percent of the vote while Cuomo only received 41.3 percent, according to the NYC Board of Elections. Mamdani ran on similar platforms to Ocasio-Cortez, promising to bring a greater level of affordability to New York City, including freezing rent payments for residents, access to fare-free bus passes, and universal childcare.

As noted by The Hill, Cuomo's campaign focus around crime and Mamdani's inexperience in politics was not enough to sway voters to elect him to lead their city. While Cuomo attempted to use his own experience leading the state of New York, Mamdani successfully attacked him on controversies that surrounded his tenure, including a decision he made during the beginning days of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow COVID-infected patients to be readmitted to nursing homes, and being credibly accused by 11 women of sexual harassment and creating a toxic work environment which led to his resignation in August 2021.

Similarly, former Hartford mayor Luke Bronin defeated 14-term Rep. John Larson in the 2026 Democratic primary for Connecticut's first Congressional District, receiving 53.5 percent of the vote with Larson only receiving 34.7 percent, according to the CT Mirror.

Bronin's campaign messaged focused on it being time for a new voice in Congress and a for new generation of political representatives, while Larson has served in Congress for 28 years. Bronin also secured the nomination over Larson at the Democratic convention in May.

Ultimately, the campaigns of Perot, Trump, Ocasio-Cortez, Mamdani, and Bronin show that voters are willing to reject experienced candidates in favor of those who present themselves as drivers of change. While these candidates all had different platforms and party affiliations, they all found success by appealing to public frustration with the political system.



***MULL** continued from front*

When Quinnipiac asked likely voters to choose the most important issue in the governor's race, the cost of living came first at 27%, followed by the economy at 23%. Fifty-two percent said they are worse off financially than they were a year ago.

Alfredo Rosete, who teaches economics at CCSU, said students should be realistic about how much of that list a governor can deliver.

"In order to increase the minimum wage in Connecticut, you need legislation to do that, and that's not just the governor's job," Rosete said. "But the governor has some influence."

He said the two parties take different approaches to wages. Democrats are more inclined to promise direct increases. Republicans have historically argued that wages rise when state policies attract more businesses to Connecticut. Rosete said that approach takes time, often longer than a single governor's term.

Student loans are mostly beyond a governor's reach. "Student loans are handled federally," Rosete said, and some students borrow from private banks instead. Tuition is different. Rosete said the governor has some influence over prices at CCSU through the Board of Regents, but lowering them comes with a cost. The university has to pay competitive salaries to keep faculty in high-demand fields like economics and computer science, who could find work almost anywhere.

"If you keep tuition low, then can you keep this kind of talent in the CCSU system?" he said. "That's a trade-off you're working with."

Shineil Gray, an 18-year-old freshman, has not registered yet. She said she knows what is at stake. "I should," she said. "I haven't registered yet, but I understand how important it is."

Gray thinks campaigns are advertising in the wrong places. She said Spotify is where she gets most of her ads, and that candidates who want young voters need to move their message to the apps students actually use.

"Candidates should be pushing ads through social media platforms and talking about their policies on TikTok, on Instagram, because that's how you get younger voters to be more inclined to vote," Gray said.

Leonard Ramirez, an 18-year-old freshman, agreed. "A lot of people aren't watching TV," he said. He added that campaigns should focus on social media and reach students where they already are.

Michael Lacasse, a junior and registered Democrat, said he definitely plans to vote. He also argued that his own party has fallen behind in reaching young people.

"This generation is more like a social media generation," Lacasse said. He believes Republicans reached voters more effectively online in the last major election. "Democrats are kind of like stuck in their ways sometimes. And I'm saying that as a Democrat."

Lacasse, who is gay, said LGBTQ rights are among his top priorities. He thinks Democrats sometimes hurt themselves by waiting for a candidate who checks every box.

"Honestly, I feel like the biggest downfall of Democrats right now has been trying to find a perfect candidate," he said. "Nobody's perfect, so it's hard."

Rosete said the information students are looking for already exists. "There's a lot of information available," he said. "It's kind of on the voters to look for it though, and it is hard because a lot of it is boring to students."

He said the university could still do more, such as hosting debates on campus that are free for students and putting more voter literature around. Whether students would use it is another question.

"People will say they want to do it, but then will they actually go do it?" Rosete said.

He was less sure about Thomas's idea of adding candidate education to a first-year class. CCSU's first-year experience course mostly covers how to navigate college, like writing a research paper or a professional email, he said.

"I think that this is a thing that should have been learned in high school," Rosete said. "I'm a bit agnostic about that."

For students ready to vote, the Secretary of the State's list of early voting locations includes a campus trailer at CCSU open Oct. 19 through Nov. 1 to voters registered in New Britain. Students registered in their hometowns must vote there or by absentee ballot.

Those who haven't registered still have time, but not much. According to the Secretary of the State's office, the deadline to register before an election falls 18 days before Election Day, which this year is Friday, Oct. 16. Voters can register online at myvote.ct.gov until 11:59 PM that night. Anyone who misses the deadline can still register and vote in person on Election Day at their town's Same Day Registration location.

This is also the first general election in which absentee voting is open to everyone. The Secretary of the State's office says voters are no longer required to give a reason or excuse when requesting an absentee ballot. That change could help students who are registered back home but live on campus. The state's online absentee ballot request portal for the Nov. 3 election opened Sept. 19.

Early voting opens on campus in 12 days. For students like Gray, the deadline to register ahead of time is even closer.

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Central Swept By FDU On Homecoming Weekend

by Andrew O' Sullivan
Sports Editor

Isabella Aviles Martinez (21) displays laser-sharp focus on an upcoming serve.

Steve McLaughlin

Despite a strong finish on Homecoming weekend, Central Women's Volleyball was unable to prevent a sweep from the visiting Fairleigh Dickinson Knights on Saturday, October 10, as the game capped a two-day series at Detrick Gymnasium that saw FDU take both games.

Friday night's game, the first leg of the doubleheader, saw Central keep their rivals modest in the first set, with Olivia Keckler and Cullen Winter producing multiple clutch plays despite losing the set 25-23. Another close set saw a level score at 24-24 before FDU's Ava DeGuzman sent down a set-winning kill over Brenna Ginley. FDU took that momentum and went on a 12-1 run to start the third set, a deficit Central was unable to recover from as they were outscored 25-16 in an FDU sweep, 3-0.

Central looked to counteract a day later Saturday, with a few lineup and playmaking changes assessed by head coach Alyssa Broccoli.

The Blue Devils took the lead in the opening set early, thanks to great plays from Breanna Ginley and Hanley Schmidt, and the set remained equally matched until FDU started to pull away despite the best efforts of Central and Olivia Keckler. A run near the end of the set for the Blue Devils kept it close, but FDU still took the first set with a score of 25-19.

An impressive back-and-forth rally won by FDU would open the second set as Central continued to keep it close, highlighted by an impressive save by Keckler. Both sides traded kills until FDU took control midway through as their front line of defense started to dominate right up against the net. The Knights would take set 2 25-17.

FDU's defense continued to smother Central as the third set began. The Knights went on an 8-2 run right out the gate until CCSU was able to quell the opposition after a timeout. Isabella Aviles, Annabelle Denomme, and Keckler all contributed to a Central run as the lead closed throughout the third set, finally taking the lead after FDU fell out of bounds on a pass attempt.

The set, from this point forward, was a close one, with the score never erring by more than a point. Multiple kills and blocks were traded from either side, with Central standouts including Keckler and Winter. The energy in Detrick Gymnasium continued to increase as Central inched closer to a win, tying the game 24 all with a Keckler kill, but FDU would score a clutch block to clinch the set and the game, ending 26-24.

The game ended 3-0, the same score as Friday.

Coach Broccoli, despite the loss, praised her team for their performance, especially in comparison to Friday.
"We made some positional changes towards the end of the match yesterday," Broccoli explained, mentioning the "new" positions for Gabriella Burdier and Annabelle Denomme. She also gave more time on the court for freshmen Hanley Schmidt and Madison Fulgencio.

"Overall, especially statistically, we did a lot better today than yesterday."

Broccoli also expected the FDU defense to be a challenge and had plans to counteract.

"They're statistically the best blocking team in the conference, so we knew coming in that it was gonna be challenging. We just kept pushing our attackers to be ultra-aggressive and using our block to our advantage," she said.

Finding holes in their defense was also a key factor, as was offensive power through the entire match and not just when down.

"Throughout the course of the match we got more aggressive, and that's our goal regardless of the game being on the line," Broccoli explained. "As the game went on, that's what our coaching staff kept pushing."

"We got even more aggressive, and obviously with aggression sometimes comes errors, and that's how the match ended."

The team returns home for their next two games against Chicago State on Friday & Saturday, October 16 & 17.

WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
MEN'S SOCCER | @ LIU (1-3)
Santiago Marin Gomez - 1 Goal
Carter Fitzgerald (GK) - 3 Saves

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
CROSS COUNTRY | (Men's 10th Overall, Women's 8th Overall)
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL | vs FDU (0-3)
Olivia Keckler - 40 Total Attacks, 10 Kills

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
FOOTBALL | vs AIC (51-14)
Davon Smith Jr. (RB) - 220 Yards, 2 Touchdowns
Brett Griffis (QB) - 11/21 Passing, 227 Yards, 3 Touchdowns

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
WOMEN'S SOCCER | @ Mercyhurst (6-0)
Eve Girardi - 1 Goal, 2 Assists
Riley Powers - 1 Goal
Isabella Cambio - 1 Goal
Hannah Dorney - 1 Goal
Valentina Mangles - 1 Goal
Taylor Yepes - 1 Goal
Rebecca Devereaux - 2 Assists
Rachel Wygant - 1 Assist
Leah Howe - 1 Assist
Melina Ford (GK) - 2 Saves

MEN'S SOCCER | vs Mercyhurst (0-0)

CCSU ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S SOCCER
10/15 • 6:00 PM • vs New Haven
10/18 • 2:00 PM • vs Delaware State

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
10/16 • 6:00 PM • vs Chicago State
10/17 • 12:00 PM • @ Mercyhurst

FOOTBALL
10/17 • 12:00 PM • @ Mercyhurst

MEN'S SOCCER
10/18 • 1:00 PM • @ Le Moyne

Players of the Week

by Dylan Romagnoli
Contributor



Davon Smith, Jr.



Melina Ford

ccsubluedevils.com

Central Connecticut State University football's sophomore running back Davon Smith Jr rushed for 220 yards on 13 carries, while rushing for two touchdowns, one of them being a career long 85-yard rush to the end zone, in Saturdays 51-14 win over American International, earning him his third NEC rookie of the week honor of the season.

Smith earns this honor alongside senior quarterback Brett Griffis who was named an NEC Prime Performer for his 11-for-21, 227 passing yard performance, adding three passing touchdowns as well as 50 yards rushing and two rushing touchdowns to a stellar performance against AIC.

Other Prime Performers included CCSU women's soccer goalkeeper Melina Ford who kept a clean sheet in their match against Mercyhurst, which included two saves on two shots on goal, and freshman forward, Eve Girardi with a goal and two assists in the Blue Devils 6-0 win over Mercyhurst on Sunday.

Blue Devils Dominate Yellow Jackets, Remain Undefeated At Home

by Vic Isaacs
Contributor



Malachi Mapp [47] had a career-high three TFL's Saturday, as he helped the Blue Devils defense hold AIC to one yard on the ground and just 199 yards of total offense. ccsubluedevils.com

Running back Davon Smith Jr and the CCSU Blue Devils handled business at home again as they defeated AIC 51-14 on Homecoming weekend.

With a second straight win at home following a dismantling of Wagner last weekend, the team moves to 2-3 overall.

The Yellow Jackets started the game with the ball but Central would strike first, as quarterback Brett Griffis would run in a 3-yard touchdown to open the scoring. AIC were able to strike back, exploiting Central's weak passing defense, scoring a touchdown in the opposing red zone to tie the game 7-7. Griffis and the Blue Devils scored the final points of the first quarter in the air as Griffis found receiver Damani Williams for a 36-yard play to extend their lead to 14-7.

Griffis took to the ground for his second score of the game early in the second quarter to make it 21-7, and following an AIC punt would take to the air for a second time, with Gabriel Wiggins taking a 25-yard heave into the end zone. Following the Wiggins touchdown, both teams traded punts until AIC was able to drive down the field and score a second touchdown with the help of two CCSU penalties. Brett Griffis ended the half with a cross body interception, with a 28-14 lead.

Central kicker Jack Hennessey would drill his first field goal of the game to extend Central's lead to begin the second half, later adding a second as the Blue Devil defense was able to quell any Yellow Jacket momentum. Griffis threw his second interception of the game in the middle of the third quarter but AIC was unable to counter, as they punted back to Central, with Davon Smith Jr. almost immediately taking an 85-yard rush to the house for the longest score of the game and Central's 5th touchdown, marking the score at 38-14. Late in the same quarter, Smith doubled with a 53-yard rushing touchdown with just over a minute remaining in the third quarter, 45-14.

Starting the fourth with big gains from John Manning IV and Damani Williams, Griffis would throw his 3rd touchdown to Eli Daniels to make it 51-14, a score that would hold until the final whistle. Kenyon Conner would put up a few yards under center but the Central defense would continue to dominate on the other side of the ball.

Central ran for 349 yards, the most out of any team in the NEC Conference so far this season.

Head Coach Adam Lechtenberg was overall positive with the performance on Saturday, but mentioned that it wasn't all easy, as there was a struggle in the 1st half defensively.

"I wasn't happy how we started," was the words of head coach Adam Lechtenberg, noting the 11 penalties for 97 yards Central lost, as well as allowing 14 points in the 1st half.

"Last week we played a bad 2nd half but a good 1st half, this week was a bad 1st half but a good 2nd half," Lechtenberg said, discussing both home games so far.

This was proven as the defense allowed 14 points in the 1st half but in the 2nd it was a shutout, they allowed less than 200 passing yards and only 1 rushing yard.

Lechtenberg also praised Davon Smith Jr, as the back had 220 total yards on only 13 carries, with the two 50+ yard touchdowns being the highlights. His yardage total was the most for a Central running back since Elijah Howard in 2023.

Lechtenberg described Smith as "...A great player. We have a lot of running backs and he's one of the more explosive players. He's taking advantage of his opportunities when he pops it for big plays"

Smith wasn't the only highlight. Quarterback Brett Griffis had thrown for 11/21 pass attempts, 227 passing yards and 3 touchdowns and 2 interceptions and rushed for 8 carries for 50 yards and 2 touchdowns, a total of 5 touchdowns today; combined with the 4 touchdowns from last game he has a total of 9 touchdowns across 2 games at home here.

When asking Brett Griffis about his performance, he describes that it's all about coaching and schemes that allowed him to go off across the 2 games.

"It feels good. We had a good week of practice, we were able to come back and execute on both sides of the ball," he said.

He would add that while the team executed well, there was still lots to clean up, including his own play with the two turnovers.

Griffis praised offensive coordinator Caleb Gelsomino as well, saying that "[He] does a great job scheming up plays. It's less of me making great plays and lot of the unit doing what Joe asks us to. Same thing with the big guys in the run game."

Malachi Mapp, who had three tackles for loss and a fumble recovery, spoke about teamwork in the victory.

"The most important thing coach emphasized was to get the win. When we all play as one, we're hard to beat," he said. He would also mention how the team helped him specifically.

"Personally, I've been struggling the past two games, that's why I have my teammates motivate me. They made me believe I can be the player I want to be, and I showed that today."

Davon Smith Jr. said it was great to win on Homecoming weekend, and emphasized practice and schemes as the most important part of the Central game plan.

"Go back to the preparation," he would say, adding that it all comes back to practice in regard to how well he played.

Central Football will play their next game away at Mercyhurst on Saturday, October 17.