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A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION

The Recorder

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Residents Worry About Inflating Grocery Costs

by Nicolina Coronis and Cody Dzis
Editor-In-Chief, Staff Writer

One of the most important issues discussed as part of the 2026 Connecticut election is affordability.

While most citizens are concerned with housing and income affordability, food and grocery product affordability is a problem that needs attention.

"There's so many things we need to buy, and it seems like everything's high," Stop & Shop customer Amy Perales said. "Essentials, things to survive. Gas and food specifically, even like house gas and oil."

The prices of items within the New Britain Stop & Shop on Corbin Avenue, for example, demonstrate said inflation on grocery products.

Essentials such as fresh produce, proteins, dairy and grains among others have started to become very expensive for shoppers to purchase. For example, the price of a family-sized value package of ground beef costs $5.79 per pound and in a 3.06-lb package comes to a $17.72 total, and that's before taxes.

To put in perspective, that's more than an hour's worth of Connecticut's currently high $16.94 minimum wage. What's crazy about that — the $5.79 is the sale price per pound right now. If not on sale, the beef would cost closer to $20 depending on what the full price is.



The sale price of ground beef located at the Stop and Shop on Corbin Ave

Cody Dzis

Chicken is another protein with increased pricing. Like all items, though, part of it depends on the brand of the item. For instance, a Stop & Shop brand whole skinless and boneless chicken is $10.22 ($1.79 per pound, a 5.71-lb chicken).

That's the cheapest of three variants of the same package of chicken. Nature's Promise, a natural and organic brand of grocery items, charges $3.49 per pound for the same chicken, and at the same size

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The Challenges of Voting as a College Student

by Eary Banushi
Social Media Editor



The early voting trailer at 300 Paul Manafort Drive on Central's campus.

Eary Banushi

In the days since the Nov. 3 midterm elections, questions surrounding young voter participation have continued to draw attention. For college students balancing classes, jobs and rising living expenses, finding the time to participate in elections can be another responsibility competing for their attention.

At Central Connecticut State University, those challenges were evident ahead of the midterm elections. Despite the availability of an early voting location on campus, local election officials reported little student participation, raising questions about the obstacles preventing young voters from taking part in the electoral process.

Peter Gostin, New Britain's Republican registrar of voters, said turnout at the mobile early voting trailer located at 300 Manafort Drive on CCSU's campus had been generally light. By the eighth day of the 14-day early voting period, Gostin said he had not seen any students register at the trailer.

"Student-wise, we really haven't registered any students, surprisingly," Gostin said.

Gostin acknowledged that a voter registration drive previously organized by the university may have accounted for some of the limited activity at the trailer. However, he also suggested that a lack of political engagement could be contributing to low student participation.

While voter apathy is often cited as a reason young people do not participate, some students face more immediate obstacles.

For Jason Lipscomb, a Central student majoring in music technology, balancing his academic responsibilities with two jobs made preparing for the election difficult.

Lipscomb, a registered independent who has voted in previous elections, works for the university before heading to his job at FedEx.

By the time he gets home, he's left with little to no time left to research candidates and their platforms.

"I have not been, I guess, yet," Lipscomb said when asked how he had been preparing to vote. "[I've been] really busy. I work with the school as well right now. I work at FedEx right after I get out of school. I get home at like midnight, so I gotta look into it still."

Lipscomb said he still planned to research the candidates before making his decisions, but acknowledged that his schedule had made it difficult to find the time.

His experience reflects a broader challenge facing young voters across the country. According to a 2025 analysis by Tufts University's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), 31% of young people who did not vote in the 2024 presidential election said they were too busy, had other

PRICES *continued on page 2*

ABOUT US

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SCAN HERE FOR OUR LINKS

PRICES *continued from front*

commitments or lacked sufficient information about voting or the candidates.

The analysis also found that financial struggles can make those barriers more difficult to overcome. Among young people who did not register because they were too busy or missed the registration deadline, 29% said they often struggled to meet basic financial needs, compared with 14% of young people overall.
The challenges facing young voters, however, do not necessarily mean they lack interest in the issues shaping their communities and their futures.

Following Election Day, CIRCLE released an early estimate that 27% of young people ages 18 to 29 nationwide voted in the 2026 midterms. The figure matched the organization's estimate for the 2022 midterm elections and represented the second-highest youth turnout in a midterm election in the past 30 years, behind 2018. The preliminary estimate has a margin of error of two percentage points, with CIRCLE planning to update its findings in spring 2027 using voter-file data.

For Kelvin Colon, a Central student majoring in cybersecurity, economic concerns were among the reasons he planned to participate in an election for the first time.

Colon said he planned to vote alongside his family, noting that rising gas and grocery prices had increasingly affected their ability to manage everyday expenses.

"My family's always voted blue, so we plan to vote blue for the midterms," Colon said. "Especially since we don't really agree with what Trump's doing in office right now, especially with ICE and how expensive gas prices are right now, and [the price of] groceries has affected us since we get groceries every weekend. It's become more and more expensive, and it's harder for us to live as a family."

Colon said he had also noticed other young people paying closer attention to economic issues, arguing that rising prices affect people regardless of their backgrounds.

"No matter who you are or where you come from, stuff like gas prices and grocery prices affects everyone," Colon said. "I assume a lot more people are voting blue to just try to get these prices back to normal."

Lipscomb echoed similar concerns, identifying affordability, particularly housing costs, as an important issue for young people. He also pointed to concerns surrounding immigration enforcement and ongoing wars.

"Affordability is always a big issue, and I think it's been a worse issue in recent years," Lipscomb said. "I just keep seeing everything go up, and people are getting a little hopeless on a lot of fronts."

The experiences of Colon and Lipscomb illustrate the complicated relationship between economic pressures and political participation. While rising living expenses motivated some students to consider voting, those same financial pressures could force others to work longer hours, leaving less time to research candidates, register or make it to the polls.

#KizerSays

You're almost there, keep going and finish strong!

JOIN THE RECORDER!



After the 'Blue Wave,' Students Look for Real Change Beyond the Ballot

by Ny'Asia Martin
Lifestyle Editor

For some CCSU students, the 2026 midterm election results brought a sense of relief. For others, questions about what comes next rose.

After following the election closely all night, one Central Connecticut State University student woke up to their social media feed filled with videos celebrating what many are calling "The Blue Wave."

"I found the results out on TikTok, actually. My "For You page" was flooded with videos of people doing backflips, crying and celebrating the blue wave," the student said. "I honestly felt relief. "

Democrats won control over both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate in the Nov. 3 midterm elections, marking a major shift in Washington during Donald Trump's administration. Gov. Ned Lamont also won a third term, defeating Republican challenger Ryan Fazio. These results give democrats greater power to challenge and change the president's agenda during the next two years.

But for the three CCSU students interviewed about the elections, the results mean more than a change in political control. Their concerns center on issues that affect their everyday lives, like the cost of living, college affordability, immigration, and whether young people have a voice in decisions that shape their future.

For CCSU Zion Canes, a senior, the election results were unexpected. Can said he initially had doubts about whether Democrats would win. While sitting in a sociological theory class, Canes heard classmates discussing the results.

"As my classmates talked about the 'blue wave', I sat there astonished for a good five minutes while I listened to everyone's comments," Canes said.

Canes said the outcome brought hope that working families and college students could see improvements, especially when it comes to housing, healthcare, groceries and education.

However, Canes' biggest concern was financial pressure. The senior described students facing financial holds, limited resources and uncertainty about whether they will be able to graduate.

"Many college students (such as myself) are facing the fear of not graduating on time due to financial holds and lack of resources," Canes said.

Canes hopes Democrats use their political power to address affordable housing, support for higher education and gun violence. Still, he questioned if the election would lead to meaningful progress.

"In the next two years, if hoping is all we can do, then clearly we voted for the wrong party."

Affordability was also a major issue for Bianca Olivo, a sophomore who said the cost of everyday living makes it difficult for young adults to plan for their future.

Olivo, who works while attending college, said balancing school, work and personal responsibilities can become stressful when financial stability is uncertain. “I feel like young people should be able to focus on building their future without constantly worrying about money.”

For the sophomore, education is one area where political decisions could have a lasting impact. Olivo hopes to pursue a master's degree after completing her undergraduate education and said tuition, student loans and financial aid all play a role in determining what opportunities are possible. Olivo wants to see more Pell Grants, programs that make college more affordable for students from low-income families, and additional assistance with student loan repayment. “I believe education should open doors for people, not create more financial struggles,” Olivo said.

For freshman Ayahna Pearson, the results were also a source of relief. Pearson followed the election closely but fell asleep before results were announced. She woke up Wednesday morning to the results circulating on social media.

Pearson said the election made her feel that voters still have the ability to influence the country’s direction. “I had serious doubts considering the current president was even voted into office, but I’m proud of America, this change was needed, and I’m happy many people were able to recognize that.”

The freshman said she's become more interested in politics despite previously not following it closely. She noticed friends voting for the first time and believed the election encouraged young people to pay more attention. “I’d describe myself as someone who isn’t into politics at all, but with everything currently happening, I’ve definitely been tuned in and can now say I’m very educated when it comes to politics.”

Beyond affordability, immigration is an issue that makes the election personal for the student. Pearson shared that her grandfather was deported, an experience that deeply affected their family.

“I take this political stuff very seriously, because my grandpa was deported and it was so hard for my family and me,” Pearson said with tears in her eyes. “I mean, I can’t even describe how I felt.” Pearson hopes to see changes to immigration policies and enforcement and said immigrants deserve the same opportunity to build successful lives as anyone else.

Pearson also questioned whether politicians are paying enough attention to college students and their well-being. Pearson pointed to the recent controversies surrounding CCSU former president Zulma Toro and the CSCU system as a whole. “I feel like politicians don’t represent young people in today’s politics at all. “she said. Despite each student's different experiences, all three students shared concerns about the financial challenges facing young adults and the need for political leaders to take their struggles seriously.

Their expectations extend beyond election nights. They want to see more affordable education, opportunities for working families and policies that make it easier for young people to become financially independent. For Pearson, that means giving young adults a fair opportunity to build their lives without feeling like the odds were already against them. “If I were able to speak directly with politicians, I would tell them we deserve a fair opportunity to achieve success,” Pearson said. “We deserve real leadership and effective leadership.”

The election may have changed the balance of power in Washington, but for these CCSU students, the next two years will be about whether the change reaches them.

COSTS *continued from front*

the cost of the chicken comes out to $20 before tax. Perdue, a top protein-producing name brand, charges right in the middle of both store brand and organic brand. They charge $2.49 per pound, which totals at $14.32 for the same size chicken.

“Sometimes with meat, I’ll just say ‘Yeah we’re not going to get that today,’” Perales said. “I go by what’s on sale, so instead of chicken I’ll get ham if the price is right. I try to get everything on sale.” Taking the prices of organic foods and comparing them to store brands of the same items, store brand is significantly cheaper for the essential items.

Highlighted by the chicken comparison, other items like eggs, milk and bread also have higher prices for the organic version than generic store packaging.

“I get organic because it’s within reason if the price isn’t far off, but normally I price watch,” Perales said. As grocery prices continue to put pressure on household budgets across Connecticut, college students are also feeling the financial strain

Between tuition, transportation and other everyday expenses, students are finding it increasingly difficult to afford basic necessities while managing limited incomes. For some, rising food costs have made grocery shopping more challenging.

CCSU student Jackson Chiappetta also feels the effects of high grocery prices. Chiappetta shares that sticking to a certain meal regime is hard with these prices. “Eggs I use every morning for hitting protein goals that’s really expensive ... fruits I go through are crazy and they're not cheap,” Chiappetta said.

Chiappetta also mentioned the tight income that college students receive which adds additional challenges to fluctuating prices. “I feel like the average for a lot of stuff has gone up, I have to utilize Costco a lot as a student and my strict income,” Chiappetta said. “I have to vitalize a lot of the costco deals because a lot of stuff is not sustainable.”

With Connecticut’s gubernatorial election approaching, the rising cost of living remains an issue for residents. Grocery prices have become part of a larger conversation about affordability and what the state’s next governor can do to ease financial pressures. Inflation is largely influenced by national economic conditions, and voters may look to the candidates for solutions that could make living in Connecticut more affordable.

CCSU economics professor Carolyne Soper shared some perspective on these high prices from personal experience. “I've definitely seen an increase in the price of groceries. I've seen it the most dramatically in meat and fresh produce,” Soper said. Considering these are staples in most people's diets, it drives up the cost of your entire bill. Our grocery bill as a family of five is about $1,000 per month and that's with shopping at stores like Costco and Aldi.”

Soper also expresses the reality of these high prices. “There are only a few things that can be done at the state level to control prices,” Soper said. “The candidates for governor have made these talking points in their campaigns. For example, might see some change with the cost of energy or property taxes. Local changes will not impact what's going on at the national level as a response to tariffs and oil prices. That's where we really need to see the policy changes.”

Store manager Lakeisha Gary spoke about Stop & Shop’s meal deals where shoppers only have to buy the most expensive item of a meal and they get all the other ingredients for free. For example, if a shopper buys a pound of ground beef then they get rolls, a caesar salad kit, pasta and pasta sauce for free to create a meal. This is a way Stop & Shop helps combat high grocery bills for customers. Gary also shared that certain Stop & Shop locations can make select items available for anywhere between $1-3 to cut down on that final total.

With Ned Lamont winning the recent election, Connecticut hopes that he will do his best to take any financial pressure off its residents as governor.

Smart shopping vs. healthy shopping

Despite eating organic food products being healthier for customers, purchasing organic products hurts people's wallets by paying more for the healthier items.

Grocery Item	Store Brand	Organic Brands
Chicken (whole)	$10.22	$20.07
Eggs (1 Dozen)	$2.99	$5.49
Milk (Gallon)	$4.79	$7.99
Milk (Half-Gallon)	$3.29	$4.99
Bread (20 oz.)	$2.79	$6.49

Note: Chicken and other proteins are priced per pound. Store brand is $1.79 per lb and organic brand is $3.49 per lb.

Table: Cody Dzis • Source: Stop & Shop • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

CAMPUS EVENTS THIS WEEK

TUE

First-Generation College Celebration
Tuesday 11/10 @ 11:00 AM
Alumni Hall, Student Center

Pin Party
Student Commuter Association
Tuesday 11/10 @ 3:00 PM
Wells Street Lounge, Student Center

WED

Veterans Day Ceremony
Wednesday 11/11 @ 11:00 AM
Alumni Hall, Student Center

Hot Takes Night
Voices Debate Society
Wednesday 11/11 @ 5:00 PM
Philbrick Camp Room, Student Center

THU

Devils Den @ 10 PM: Rep Your Flag
United Caribbean Club
Thursday 11/12 @ 3:00 PM
Semesters Café, Student Center

Self-Care Social
Student Commuter Association
Monday 11/16 @ 3:00 PM
Wells Street Lounge, Student Center

MON

Jewelry Bar
Student Commuter Association
Monday 11/16 @ 3:00 PM
Wells Street Lounge, Student Center

Dancentral Preps Student-Choreographed Fall Performance

by Liam McCusker
News Editor



Dancentral's showcase dancers. MiguelPagan

Dancentral will be performing 16 pieces Nov. 21 in the Welte Auditorium at 7 p.m. The shows are student-choreographed. At the beginning of each semester, returning members of Dancentral submit applications or proposals to become choreographers, including ideas for dances and songs.The club also holds an audition day for dancers interested in participating in the pieces. After routines are presented and evaluated, one is selected for each piece.

From there, members spend roughly two and a half months choreographing and rehearsing for the show. Rehearsals take place every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The club features multiple dance styles, including jazz, lyrical, hip-hop and Latin, and has roughly 60 members. Dancentral President and CCSU senior Kaitlynn Pusztai is one of the choreographers for the upcoming show. “I have choreographed in the past but this year is my first time choreographing for Dancentral and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to share my love for dance with others who feel the same way as I do,” Pusztai said. Pusztai has been part of Dancentral for three years, and this is her first semester as president. She said she joined the club because she danced up until her high school graduation. She added that she is excited for the upcoming show.

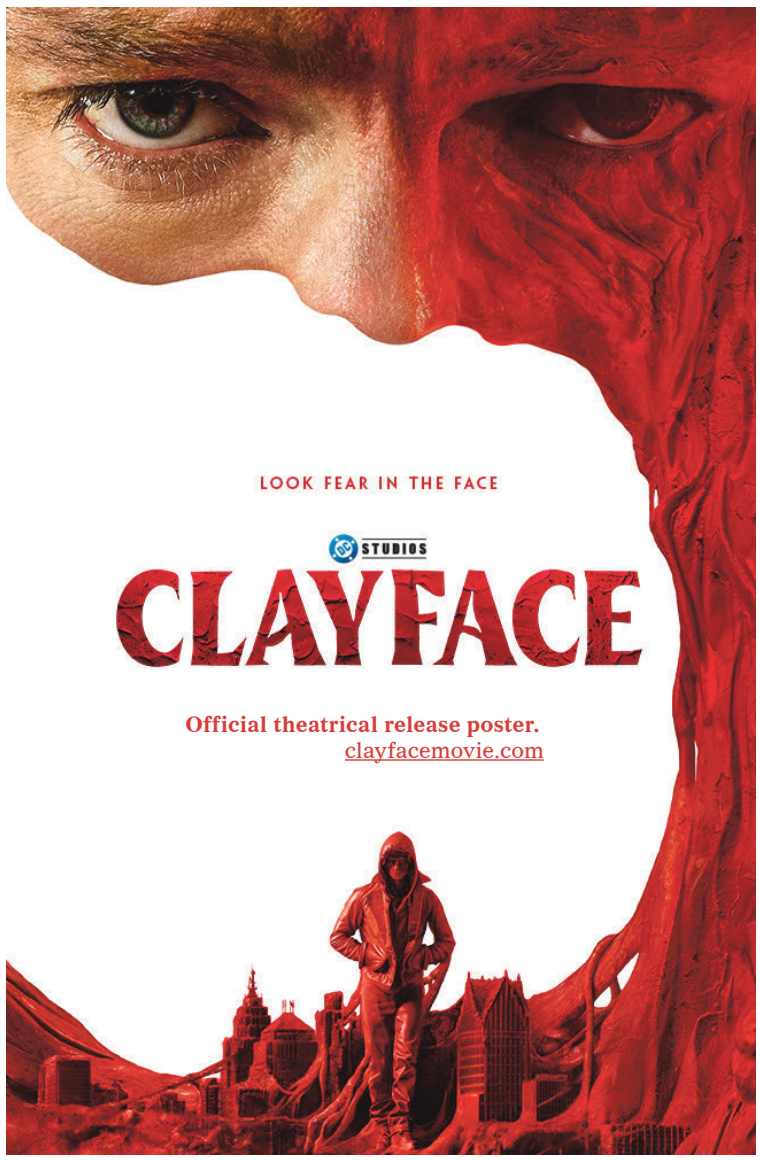
“I’m a little nervous, too, because it’s my first Dancentral show as President which will be a different environment for me. I have more responsibilities than years prior but I’m excited to execute to ensure the show runs smoothly,” Puztai said. “With being president, there’s a little bit more pressure but I’m definitely excited to be leading a wonderful group of people and watch something we’ve all worked so hard for come to life in front of an audience.”

Dancentral Vice President and senior Ella Heisler said people attending the show should expect a variety of pieces. “We have one that’s a faith-based Christian piece but there’s another piece that’s all about women empowerment,” Heisler said. Heisler helped choreograph a contemporary lyrical group piece with a theme of grief. She said it can also “shine on the grief of a moment or relationship, or even nostalgia.”

“It’s all up to interpretation in terms of what the audience is supposed to take from it,” Heisler said. “There’s another big group piece with almost the whole club in it and it’s about celebrating different cultures and where people come from.” Heisler added that performing the show is a team effort. “It’s an art, and we’re coming together to share that art,” Heisler said. “But these dancers also spend their whole semester putting their best foot forward, and they’re really athletes at the end of the day.” The show is available to students, staff, faculty and family members free of charge. The doors will open around 6:30 to 6:45 P.M.

Pusztai said she enjoys meeting different people through Dancentral and building relationships. “Not all dancers grow up competing so it is fun and exciting to meet people that maybe you didn’t grow up dancing the same way but you all share the same passion for dance. I have made so many friends by being a part of Dancentral and I know that that is what makes it so special,” Pusztai said. “I know that without the people I met through Dancentral, I wouldn’t be where I am today.” Heisler added that she likes the supportive environment in Dancentral. “This is my first semester choreographing so I feel there’s a lot of encouragement to do your own thing and people trust your vision,” Heisler said.

Dancentral holds auditions for new members at the beginning of every semester. There will be auditions in January after the winter break for the spring semester show. Heisler said the team encourages anyone who is interested to come and audition. “If you’re not ready to commit to the weekly rehearsal schedule we have our associate members, and that is more for people who may not want to necessarily participate in the show but still be part of the club,” Heisler said.



by Jobee Kessler
Contributor

Clayface, the third film in the DCU [DC Universe], wastes no time. The film opens on its titular character at his peak: actor Matt Hagen (Tom Rhys Harries) has just been nominated for an Academy Award. Having lifted himself from the squalid slums of Gotham City, this represents a true triumph for Matt; but such highs are short-lived. After meeting a beautiful woman in a nightclub and taking her home, he wakes to find her mobster boyfriend Markos Szabo (David Dencik), who disfigures the actor's beautiful face as recompense. What follows is a tale of justice unserved, twisted like so much clay into monstrous revenge. Matt regains his face with the help of Caitlyn Carr (Naomi Ackie), a doctor specializing in nanotech. But, like Midas, his wish is perversely granted. The story is slight — Matt's roaring rampage of revenge, but Harries and Ackie sell every moment. The effects are fantastic and the fight scenes hypnotizing. The only real issue is that Clayface doesn't quite stick the landing. After Matt's thirst for vengeance is sated, the story takes a turn for "what now?" It's a question the film answers, however weakly, but what started as a rush ends with a trickle. Still, despite its wet clay ending, the first three-quarters of the film indicate a continued strong start for the DCU. After Superman and Supergirl, Clayface represents a darker, more Gothamite energy that spells further promise for the soft-rebooted franchise.

3/5 ★★★★★

Now playing at Picture Show Berlin, AMC Plainville, Cinemark Buckland Hills, and Parkade Cinema Manchester, among other locations.

Central contributes to CSDE gains in college readiness

More Connecticut Students Prepared for College and Careers

Connecticut students are making continued progress in academic achievement, attendance, graduation rates, and preparation for college and careers, according to new statewide accountability results announced by the Connecticut State Department of Education at the at the Legislative Office Building on Oct. 27.

The results are part of Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System, first implemented in 2014-15. The system measures school and district performance across 12 indicators, going beyond test scores and graduation rates to provide a more complete picture of how schools support student learning, growth and well-being.



The Connecticut State Department of Education [CSDE] at the Legislative Office Building on Oct. 27. Courtesy of The CSDE

The results show improvement in most areas measured by the state's Next Generation Accountability System, including:

- Academic achievement: Students continued to improve in English language arts, mathematics, and science.
- Attendance: Chronic absenteeism declined for the fourth consecutive year.
- Graduation: More students graduated within four years, while more ninth-grade students remained on track to graduate on time.
- College and career readiness: More students entered postsecondary education and demonstrated readiness for education and training beyond high school.
- Student well-being and engagement: Results also improved in physical fitness and participation in the arts.
- Connecticut's overall Accountability Index, which measures school and district performance across multiple areas, increased for the third consecutive year, rising from 69.7 in 2021–22 to 72.2 in 2025–26.

"These results reflect the hard work of Connecticut's students, educators, families, local board members, school and district staff, and communities, along with the continued commitment of state and local leaders to strengthening public education across our state," said Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker. "We are encouraged by the progress across multiple measures of student success, particularly the significant increase in students earning college credits while still in high school, giving them a head start on their future, whether they pursue workforce certificates and credentials or two- or four-year college degrees."

Increase in high school students graduating with college credits

The growing number of Connecticut high school students earning college credit before graduation reflects expanded opportunities for students to get a head start on higher education while reducing the cost of earning a degree.

Central Interim President Kimberly T. Kostelis (pictured left) attended the Oct. 27 announcement and highlighted Central's growing dual and concurrent enrollment partnerships with high schools across the state. As of this fall, 24 public school districts are offering 33 of Central's dual and concurrent courses.

Central also launched Central U Blue Devils Scholars this fall in partnership with the New Britain Consolidated School District. The initiative gives New Britain students the opportunity to take college courses on Central's campus, with transportation provided.

To further strengthen the quality and reach of its concurrent enrollment programs, Central is pursuing accreditation through the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, with a review scheduled for the 2027–28 cycle.

More than one-third of Connecticut students in Grades 11 and 12 are earning at least three college credits.

The percentage of students earning three or more college credits with a grade of C or better increased from 22.3 percent in 2021–22 to 34.6 percent in 2025–26, which represents more than 9,700 additional students earning college credits over that four-year period.

Through these opportunities, students can earn college credits before graduating from high school, reducing future college costs and helping them build confidence as they prepare for education and careers beyond high school. Most courses are offered at high schools and taught by instructors approved by partnering colleges and universities.

These dual credit opportunities have expanded the number of college-level courses completed by Connecticut high school students by more than 70 percent, from 30,653 in 2018–19 to 53,346 in 2025–26.

CONTACT: 860-929-1177

Central to Support Local Mothers-to-Be With Community Baby Shower

It's a Boy! It's a Girl! It's the Fourth Annual Community Baby Shower at Central Connecticut State University!

Hosted by the Department of Nursing in partnership with Lucinda's House and the Central Maternal Health Advocacy Club, this year's Community Baby Shower will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alumni Hall in the Central Student Center.

Nursing students and other volunteers will provide local mothers-to-be with information about local resources for pregnant women, including local doulas, nurses, lactation consultants, mental health resources, dental providers, pediatric providers, other community organizations.

Parking will be available at the Student Center parking lot and Welte garage.

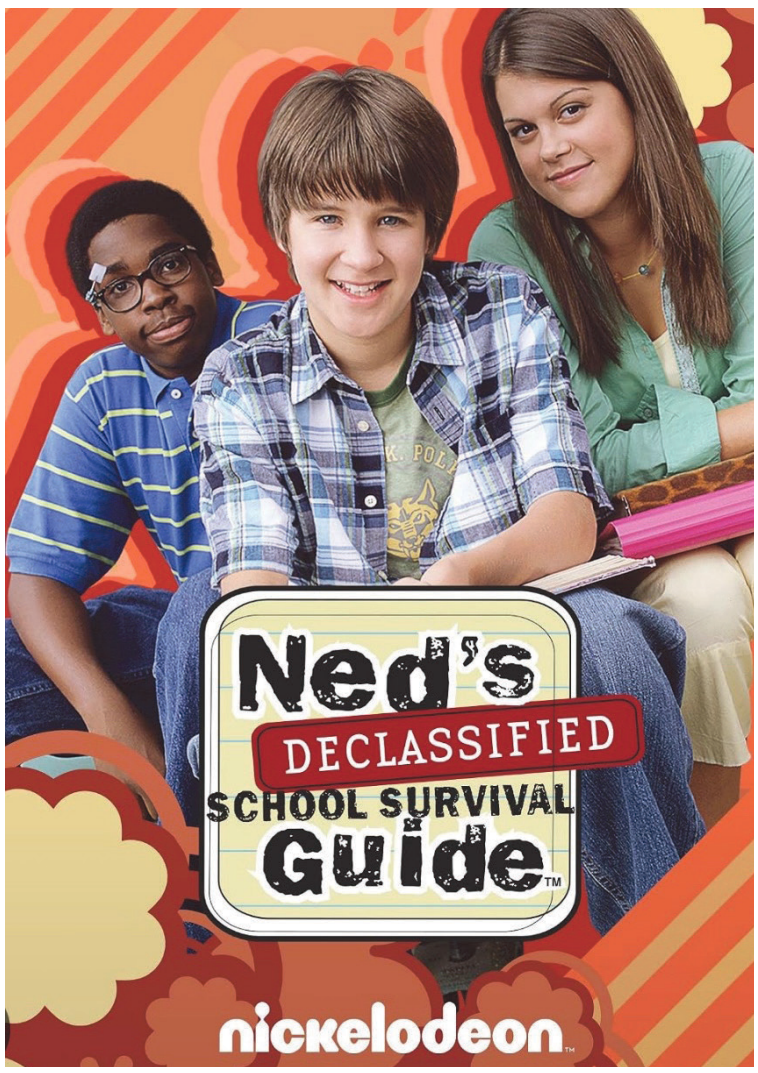
About Lucinda's House

Lucinda's House was created in 2022 by Dr. Lucinda Canty to create environments where women of color feel safe and supported and can actively participate in eliminating structural barriers to improve their overall health and well-being. The organization provides individual consultations, health educational events, and information about community resources.

CONTACT: 860-929-1177



DID YOU KNOW?
Thanksgiving Break starts Wednesday, November 25?



by Liam McCusker
News Editor

Nearly two decades after its conclusion, the sitcom Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide remains one of the most relatable and compelling sitcoms to watch.

The show follows the lives of the three friends Ned Bigby, Simon Nelson-Cook (Cookie) and Jennifer Mosely (Moze) through their middle school careers. Throughout the series, they, and especially Ned, offer tips to their classmates and viewers through the guide they have created, and give advice on topics from studying habits to dealing with bullies, especially as they try and avoid school bully Billy Loomer, to forming new relationships.

Ned and Moze hide their true feelings for each other for a long time and don't end up committing to a relationship beyond their friendship until the end of the third season. Ned desperately tries to get the attention of Suzie Crabgrass throughout the series but only briefly goes out with her in the third season before she moves away.

Ned then begins to realize he has feelings for Moze but is afraid to admit it. As Ned and Moze go to tell each other about their true feelings, Suzie returns to their school, which further complicates the situation. Ned recommits to his relationship with Suzie, but finally realizes he is meant to be with Moze in the last episode of the series.

Cookie is a tech genius and can solve any cyber problem in the school. He frequently relies on technology to study and create schedules for himself. For the first two seasons, he is chased by Lisa Zemo, a girl who is very shy and appreciates Cookie for who he is. However, Lisa becomes much more outgoing in the third season, and no longer follows Cookie around. Instead, Cookie attempts to get Lisa's attention.

School staff members such as Gordy, Mr. Sweeney and Vice Principal Crubs add another layer to the show. Gordy supports each one of the students and offers a lot of life advice, particularly to Ned, Moze and Cookie, even though he hardly ever actually does his job and cleans. Nothing ever stresses Gordy out and he can often be found napping in his office or simply chilling around the school.

Mr. Sweeney is viewed by the students as a strict and evil science teacher. He often gets frustrated with Ned because he feels Ned does not try hard in his class and always has an excuse for why he has not gotten an assignment done on time, but still wants his students to succeed. He tricks Ned into taking a notebook he has in his classroom so he'll study for an upcoming exam by telling him the notebook was written by someone famous. Ned reviews the notes and gets an A on the test, proving he can get good grades when he applies himself.

Crubs watches what the students are doing round the clock and will appear with a helmet he owns with a siren on it if they are doing something wrong. He is willing to hear from his students on issues and even agrees to put granola bars back in the vending machines after Moze and Cookie organize a strike and students refuse to go to class. He has a love for flamingoes and many plastic ones are all over his office.

Ultimately, Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide is more than simply a sitcom. It is a calming and entertaining show that allows people to view it while also receiving life advice from characters who are experiencing school themselves. This is likely why the show has remained popular long after it ended.

Women's Soccer Wins Regular Season Finale, Clinches #1 Seed in Postseason

by Vic Isaacs
Staff Writer

In a lights-out defensive game the Central women's soccer team won their last home game of the season against FDU 1-0 on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Both CCSU and FDU came into the game near the top of the NEC standings, with a victory for either squad confirming a share of the league title and a shot at the number one seed in the NEC Postseason Tournament. Sadie Passante took control for the Blue Devils early as she nearly broke the scoring a mere six minutes into the game, and conversely FDU would fire a shot on goal just a few minutes later. Passante would record her second shot of the half with an assist from Riley Powers that was saved by FDU keeper Rosemarie Leblanc. 28 feet deep, Riley Powers scored the one and only goal of the game, a long-range unassisted strike.

The Knights attempted to respond in the first half, with a free kick saved by Central keeper Melina Ford in the 32′ minute. Melina Ford recorded six saved goals this game. During the second half it was mostly clock management for the Blue Devils. FDU took eight shots in the second 45, all of which were saved by Ford in the goal, and Central was unable to double their lead as the score remained 1-0 at the final whistle.

With this win the Blue Devils are on a 5-game win streak going into the playoffs as the number one seed. Head coach Mick D'Arcy was pleased with his team, not only Sunday but throughout the season. "Good to know that we finished the season as co-champions and as the number one seed, it's a huge achievement for us. We've earned the right to be at home for the playoffs." He would describe the shutout as a "team effort." "It was a very disciplined effort defensively. I thought our goalkeeper played well, but it was really a team job. The defenders made some key blocks and tackles, but we also had forwards and offensive players helping out too."

Goal scorer Powers praised the home crowd during the game, as the fans were electric for the whole 90 minutes. "It gave us energy and the want to win and just play for the team. The home crowd definitely helped." When about the performance out of the defense and what will let it continue, standout keeper Melina Ford said that practicing together was the main key for cohesion. "We practice with the defense, defense [practices with] the offense, offense [practices with] the midfield, and I feel like we just have to spend the week figuring out the little things, tuning it all up to get ready for the game." Both Ford and Powers were optimistic of Central's chances of continuing their success in the postseason.

"Keep playing how we've been playing," said Powers. "We know what we need to do and we can do it, [the home advantage] gets us really excited." Next week the Blue Devils are in the NEC Tournament. Coach D'Arcy would speak on his team heading into the most crucial part of the season, especially coming off a five-game winning streak. "We've been working towards this moment. It gives us confidence heading into the postseason." CCSU returns home Thursday, Nov. 12 to play #4 Wagner in the first round of the NEC Tournament.



Riley Powers [2] dominates the ball. Steve McLauhglin Photography

Men's Soccer Survives Late Scare in Regular Season Finale

by Andrew O'Sullivan
Sports Editor



Defender Miguel Gonzalez [13] surveys the field during their New Haven face-off.
Steve McLaughlin Photography

Despite a late equalizer from the visiting New Haven Chargers, Blue Devils Men's Soccer were able to retain a draw and punch their ticket to the NEC postseason tournament with a 1-1 final score Thursday, Nov. 5.

The regular season finale was Central's first game at home against the Chargers, who joined the NEC this year. Needing a draw to secure a postseason berth and a win to secure home field advantage, Central looked to keep the visitors at bay despite an almost immediate attack from the Chargers early in the first half. Santiago Marin Gutierrez, team leader in goals, nearly got his 11th on the season with a tactical shot in the ninth minute, but the boot was stopped by New Haven's keeper.

Central's defense at the box was clutch throughout the entire first 45, with a particular deflection at the 30' mark preventing the visitors from taking a lead. Another goal prevention, this time from goalkeeper Carter Fitzgerald, in the 41' kept the game at 0-0. The score would not change despite 11 combined shots for the two sides.

The second half began with another shot from New Haven saved by Fitzgerald early, as both teams would trade misfired boots and fouls in the defensive-heavy match. Finally, in the 71st minute, following a throw-in by captain Colin Wright, defender Miguel Gonzalez ripped a bicycle kick in traffic that erred just to the left of New Haven keeper Shane Antao to give the Blue Devils their first lead of the game. UNH would attempt to counter almost immediately with a shot from Matheus Guimaraes that dribbled just outside the crossbar in the 75'.

Multiple other shots on goal from both teams ensued in the following 10 minutes as Central attempted to hold on to the lead, efforts that would eventually be in vain. In the 85', Chargers forward Ali Taleb buried a shot in the net coming off a long ball from his teammate, pushing the score to 1-1 with just a mere four minutes remaining in regulation, which Central was unable to overcome.

Despite the disappointing finish, the Blue Devils were able to lock in a trip to the NEC postseason as the 3rd seed in the tournament behind LIU and Farleigh Dickinson. Head coach David Kelly described his opponent as "talented [and] technical" and one that caused them a lot of problems. "I didn't think we defended terribly well, I didn't think we looked as organized as in previous games. But it's a really resilient group." Playstyle was generally unaffected coming into Thursday's match. "We made slight little adjustments, there were a few tweaks to accommodate the way they played," Kelly explained.

Kelly would also mention that the team punching their ticket into the playoffs was the main goal of the night, and despite the way it came about, the draw wasn't the worst outcome. Although the weather was not as much of a factor as forecasts may have predicted, Kelly said his men would have been prepared either way, saying "it's great when it rains" as the turf can act more like real grass to improve mobility for players. Captain and forward Colin Wright, whose throw-in was the catalyst for Miguel Gonzalez' goal in the second half, praised his teammates despite the draw. "I think the team followed the game plan, listened to coach's instructions, went through with it the right way," he would say. "We probably weren't at our best today as a team, but we got the job done. Everybody worked hard."

"Job's done here, but job's not done yet," Wright would say previewing Central's appearance in the postseason. With New Haven being a new addition to the NEC conference, it gives the Blue Devils a proper in-state rival for all sports for the first time since 2024 when Sacred Heart was a full NEC member. Both Kelly and Wright talked about what it means to have another Connecticut opponent in key games. "It's nice," said Wright. "They're a very good team, they can play, some good players on that team that I know. It's nice having an in-state rivalry. We sent them home this year, [but] respect to them too, very good team." "I think its great for us, I think it's great for New Haven, it's a great thing to have in the state," said Kelly.

With the regular season concluded, Central will play their first postseason game on the road Thursday, Nov. 12. Their opponent will be revealed at a later date.

Men's Ends Opening Week of Play With Overtime Victory at Dartmouth

by Dylan Romagnoli
Staff Writer

Central's Men's basketball team returned to action this past week with three away games at Temple, Syracuse and Dartmouth, exiting the first week road gauntlet with a 1-2 record. Following heavy roster turnover in the offseason, which head coach Patrick Sellers remains optimistic about, explaining in a previous interview with The Recorder that he was "expecting big things" from his new players, but that he wouldn't know the specifics until the team had multiple games under their belt.

Central kicked off their season Monday, Nov. 2, at the Liacouras Center in Philadelphia against the Temple Owls. Temple opened the game on a 17-0 run that was unanswered by the Blue Devils until the sixth minute of the first half, but Central would eventually keep the game competitive, going on an 11-2 run midway through the second half, outscoring Temple 40-32. The final score on Monday was 68-56 in favor of the Owls.

The Blue Devils got a big lift off the bench from sophomore guard Ashton Reynolds who netted a game-high 18 points, adding three rebounds, two steals and two blocks. Thursday, the team traveled north to the JMA Wireless Dome to take on Syracuse. The Orange took the lead right away with a layup by freshman forward, Mark Morano. Syracuse didn't give the lead back, beating Central 102-49.

Morano was one of four players in double figures for the Orange, scoring 16 points alongside junior guard Gavin Doty who scored a game high 18 points and junior big man Luke Wilson with 14 points. Sophomore guard, Kiyan Anthony, son of Basketball Hall of Famer Carmelo Anthony, also contributed 14 points off the bench. Central struggled offensively, shooting 34% from the field and 16% from beyond the arc, but a bright spot was junior guard Raphel Laurent who led the team by scoring 17 points, netting two of the Blue Devils three 3-point makes. Laurent was the only Blue Devil to reach double figures.

Following the two losses, CCSU took to the Granite State and the Dartmouth Big Green on Sunday, playing an afternoon game at Leede Arena in Hanover. Coming into the game, Central head coach Patrick Sellers said the team had not lost any confidence and has found positives in adversity. "The positives are our resiliency and togetherness," he said. "We had a tough start but every guy in the locker room is locked in and giving us everything they have."

After Central guard James Jones opened the game with a jump shot, Dartmouth responded with a 9-0 run, all nine being scored by junior guard, Cameron McNamee. McNamee led all scorers in the contest with 20 points, along with six rebounds. The only other double-digit scorer for the Big Green was sophomore big man, Anton Strelnikov off the bench. The Blue Devils made a run of their own, holding the Big Green to 1-for-6 shooting on their way to taking an 18-17 lead with nine minutes left in the first half. Central took a 33-30 lead into halftime, getting a boost from junior guard Victor Payne Jr. who made two three-pointers. Jones contributed a layup, and Ashton Reynolds ended the half with an emphatic dunk.



James Jones [24] shoots amid the opposition at the Nov. 8 game at Dartmouth.
Steve McLaughlin Photography

Payne led the Blue Devils in scoring with 17 points off the bench. Five of his six shots in the game were from beyond the three-point arc, two of those makes coming when Central needed them the most in overtime. Payne was one of four Blue Devils in double figures; James Jones scored a season high 15 points, Ashton Reynolds made his first start of the season scoring 13 points and grabbing eight rebounds, and Raphel Laurent contributed 10 points of his own. The second half was more of the same, with neither team being able to separate themselves from the other, as the Blue Devils and Big Green swapped the lead 16 times. Dartmouth outscored Central 33-36 in the second half, headed into overtime deadlocked at 66-66. Central was finally able to pull away in overtime, ending the game with a seven-point lead, their largest lead of the night.

Central has one more game on the road before coming home to their fans. "We constantly talk about how we lead the league in attendance, so we are hoping we will have a huge turnout for our first home game," said Coach Sellers. "The fellas will surely appreciate it." The 1-2 Blue Devils end their four-game road trip at 2-1 Sacred Heart University on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Weekend Sweep Versus Le Moyne for Women's Volleyball

by Andrew O'Sullivan
Sports Editor

In their penultimate home series of the regular season, Central women's volleyball swept the visiting Le Moyne Dolphins two times over, with a pair of 3-0 victories Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7.

The Blue Devils improved their record to 8-17 overall and 6-6 in NEC Conference play as they make a push toward the postseason. On Friday, the first set would begin with an equally matched back-and-forth before Central was able to pull away with a 4-score run midway through, with Madison Fulgencio delivering two kills. Another run followed as Central won the first set 25-16.

Adele Mercer and Olivia Keckler would kick off the second set with another Central run before the Dolphins brought the score back within one. Fulgencio and Hanley Schmidt would again bring the firepower with multiple kills to stretch a lead that the Dolphins were unable to overcome despite a run of their own late, as the set ended at 25-17.
As with the previous two sets, Central and Le Moyne would remain on equal footing through the first few minutes, as Breanna Ginley and Annabelle Denomme contributed with multiple kills, and the set was tied as late as 15-15 before Central went on a 10-2 run to close out the game, with the final two points coming off Dolphin serve aces.

The following afternoon, the two teams met again on the hardwood as Le Moyne looked to salvage the weekend with a solid result. Olivia Keckler would draw first blood for the Blue Devils, but Le Moyne would take an early lead with multiple great saves and recoveries. Central broke the deficit as Keckler and Fulgencio delivered crucial kills to tie the set, and the points would be shared for the rest of the set until multiple late errors from Le Moyne would give Central a victory in the first set 25-23.

Keckler would begin the second set in the exact same fashion, with the two teams again level pegging. Brenna Ginley was the star player for Central during Set two, recording six kills against the Dolphins, including a hat trick all set up by Anja Milosevic as the Blue Devils went on a run late in the set to take a commanding 25-13 victory, their fifth straight set win over the weekend's play.

Keckler went three for three in opening the scoring in the third set, having added kills from teammates Fulgencio, Ginley and Schmidt early. Le Moyne adjusted their defense and were able to record more blocks in the third set than in the first two combined, a setup countered by Central as both teams got right up at the net. Although Le Moyne and CCSU would tie it up midway through the set, Central's attacking offense would again prove too much for the Dolphins as they pulled away despite a few overturned calls to take the final set 25-15, as Madison Fulgencio delivered the final kill on a complete weekend sweep in Detrick Gymnasium.

Head coach Alyssa Broccoli was "thrilled" about how the weekend went. "It was pretty good. We came in here knowing we had a job to do," she said. "Obviously we had a game plan regardless of who we were playing, and I thought we executed the game plan really well yesterday. Obviously today we sat back down and reevaluated what we can do better again and based on that we executed again today."
Although Friday ended with a victory, she mentioned that there was still work to do from game to game. "We wanted to serve the ball better, and in turn we got a quite a bit of service aces, but we were still high error with our serves. High risk high reward." "I think we even could have done that better today," she would say regarding her team's serves. "Usually we want [errors and aces] to be about even."

Her team's defense, however, was on point during the series, especially on the counter-attack. "Obviously we play defense based on what happens on first and second contact, so the reality is that if we serve really tough and we get them out of system our defense does move up. The more pressure we put on them serving, hopefully the less they can attack the ball and stay in system." "Without one person on the team there's no success. The reality is that there's so much that has to happen. I think it was a great team win; we utilized almost our whole bench," she mentioned in a concluding statement.
Central volleyball will close out the regular season at home with a doubleheader against Stonehill on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14.



The team breaks their huddle at the game against Le Moyne on Nov. 6.

Steve McLaughlin Photography

WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

MEN'S BASKETBALL
CENTRAL - 56 | TEMPLE - 68

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CENTRAL - 43 | VCU 67

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CENTRAL - 38 | JAMES MADISON 77

MEN'S BASKETBALL
CENTRAL - 49 | SYRACUSE - 102

MEN'S SOCCER
CENTRAL - 1 | NEW HAVEN 1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
CENTRAL - 3 | LE MOYNE - 0

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
CENTRAL - 3 | LE MOYNE - 0

FOOTBALL
CENTRAL 31, STONEHILL 7

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING - 10 INDIVIDUAL VICTORIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

WOMEN'S SOCCER
CENTRAL - 1 | FDU - 0

MEN'S BASKETBALL
CENTRAL - 78 | DARTMOUTH - 71

CENTRAL ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
11/12 • vs Rider • 7 PM
11/14 • @ UMass

MEN'S SOCCER
11/12 • @ #2 FDU • 3 PM

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
11/13 • Friday Night Sprints • 5 PM

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
11/13 • vs Stonehill • 6 PM
11/14 • vs Stonehill • 1 PM

FOOTBALL
11/14 • @ LIU

WOMEN'S SOCCER
11/12 • vs #4 Wagner • 1 PM

MEN'S BASKETBALL
11/12 • @ Sacred Heart • 7 PM
11/15 • vs Quinnipiac • 1 PM

CROSS COUNTRY
11/13 • NCAA Regionals