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'City of Roses'



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## Empowering the Vote



### Student groups on mission to impact elections

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Aimed to empower students to become more politically involved and not sit idly by as college tuition soars and other needs go unmet, a group of non-partisan student coalitions have registered nearly 20,000 new voters.

As part of a statewide campaign to register and educate over 40,000 students to vote, students at Portland Community College have joined forces with their counterparts, the Oregon Student Association and the Oregon Community College Student Association, to make a difference at the ballot box this November.

"We are already halfway to meeting that goal with 19,500 students registered across the state since April," said Sarah Westover, Oregon Student Foundation vote organizer at PCC Cascade. "More than 1,300 of those students were from PCC Cascade alone, and we hope to register 1,200 more on this campus before the election."

Throughout the past year, the non-partisan coalitions have performed campus visits and prepared classroom presentations, which has helped secure the previously unregistered voters to prove to elected officials that students care about the political process.

"Our best chance to advocate for better funding and more access is to prove to them that students are paying attention, and do vote," Westover said.

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PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Portland Community College students Trieste Desautelsare (left) and Amy Stevens at the PCC Cascade campus in north Portland. The students are part of a statewide effort to increase the number of students who are registered voters.