



For Immediate Release

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National, state NAACP leaders encourage students to register to vote

Raleigh – Representatives from the state and national NAACP got Saint Augustine's College students fired up, ready to go and ready to vote at Friday's voter registration rally.

The Rev. William Barber, state NAACP president, and Ben Jealous, national NAACP president, talked to student-athletes and student leaders about the importance of registering and voting in this historic election. Barber highlighted funding for education as one of the important issues.

"There are plenty of reasons you better vote," Barber said. "In North Carolina, we put more money into incarceration than we do in our five public (historically black colleges and universities)."

Saint Augustine's College Dianne Boardley Suber told students getting a driver's license at 16 and registering to vote at 18 were the two milestones young people looked forward to when she was growing up.

"Getting your driver's license may not be as important now, but registering to vote is," Suber said. "Be in a position to be able to say, 'I made this happen. It was because of me change occurred.'"

Jealous encouraged students to think of what they'll tell their grandchildren when they ask about this election.

"Your grandchildren are going to ask you if you voted. You don't want to lie," Jealous said. "You may not disappoint yourself if you don't vote, but you will disappoint your grandchildren."

Thanks to several on-campus voter registration drives, most of the students who attended the event said they are already registered for the November election.

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