

Early Iowa caucus influences college vote

by UPI

DES MOINES, Iowa -- Political strategists said Iowa's decision to have its presidential caucuses Jan. 3 could lower turnout among college students on winter break. A caucus while colleges were in session would have produced "the highest new turnout in history," said Alec Schierenbeck, a Grinnell College junior who heads Iowa College Democrats. "Now you won't see that happen." Campaigns are making "unprecedented efforts" to organize college students, which is easier than ever thanks to social networking Web sites such as Facebook, Schierenbeck, 20, of New York told USA Today. Some Iowa college students on break will caucus in their hometowns, while several colleges, including Grinnell, plan to reopen briefly to let students who live in dorms vote in the caucuses, USA Today reported. "It's clearly an untapped resource," Democratic pollster Geoffrey Garin said of Iowa's college vote, the USA Today report said.

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