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## Law Students Reach Out to Local Teens

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – A group of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law students is about to trade its usual seat in the classroom for one that comes with much more visibility.

Beginning Jan. 29, students from the law school will begin making twice-weekly visits to the Lena Pope Home to work with middle and high school students who have elected to participate in Street Law, a program that provides students with practical, participatory education about law, democracy, and human rights.

“Our program is targeting teens at schools and in neighborhoods that other people don't pay much attention to,” Public Interest Research Fellow Andrea Hunter said. “It's invaluable that we can go in, spend time with the students, and essentially tell them, 'You are important, you can be successful, and no matter what anyone else says, the sky is the limit if you work hard and make smart decisions.’”

Twelve one-hour sessions will take place between Jan. 29 and March 6. Law students will spend classroom time discussing issues about crime and the community with their pupils. Discussion of issues such as conflict, vandalism, and community safety are intended to educate teens about ethical rules, the need for laws and to reduce their delinquency and their association with delinquent peers.

“The law students who become involved in the Street Law program will have an opportunity to encourage and inspire the teens they work with,” Hunter said. “What's amazing, though, is how much the interaction with the teens will enrich the lives of our students as well. Everyone involved benefits from the time spent in the classroom.”

The Lena Pope Home works collaboratively with the Fort Worth and Crowley school districts to provide alternative education opportunities to students who experience problems in a traditional classroom setting. Students may be referred to the school for a number of reasons, including behavioral and drug-related problems.

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