The mission? To support, mentor, and encourage students to attend college and, ultimately, law school and pursue legal opportunities in the region.

Studies show that fewer black and Latino students graduate from high school and college and are underrepresented in the legal profession. The number of women entering law schools runs consistently below 50 percent of the class.

This program invites applications from any student interested in a legal profession. Our intent is to support a diverse student body at KU Law by identifying promising students from a variety of backgrounds not commonly represented in the practice of law. Our goal is that these students, after experiencing the program and being paired with a mentor to help navigate the path to higher education, will eventually pursue a legal career.

Possible topics and activities include: criminal law, business law, contract negotiations, civil rights law, intellectual property, participation in a mock trial, field trips, and interaction with students and legal professionals.
The Journey to J.D. program...

- encourages students to attend college and pursue a law degree, and explores tools to succeed at both.
- gives students a basic understanding of the legal system.
- allows high school students to learn from current law students.
- provides opportunities to meet alumni from all fields of law, including attorneys, judges and business leaders.
- teaches interviewing skills.
- enables students to experience a college campus and meet peers from across Kansas.

For parents

Private support covers the cost of attendance for students admitted to the program, including tuition, housing and food. Students will be supervised by law students at all times. They will learn in a structured, small-class environment with a focus on the academic to professional spectrum.

How to apply

Students interested in applying for Journey to J.D. should request an application packet from their school counselor or download materials at http://www.law.ku.edu/journeytojd. In addition to a completed application form, students must supply:

- an essay explaining their interest in participating in the program.
- a personal statement.
- a list of accomplishments.
- a signed consent/release of liability form.
- report/grade card.
- one letter of recommendation from a nonfamily member.

Applications and all supporting documents are due by March 31, 2012.

Students selected for the program must pay a nonrefundable $50 deposit to reserve their spot. Students may request a fee waiver if this presents a financial hardship.

Questions?

Contact Karen Hester at journeytojd@ku.edu or (785) 864-4550.

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“The long-term mentoring component of this program will make a tremendous difference in these students’ lives, encouraging them to seek higher education opportunities. As the law school reaches out to diverse students, teaching them how and why a law degree is attainable, this program will not only benefit the students involved but also our community as a whole.”

— Dan Cranshaw, KU Law Class of 2003, Lathrop & Gage