

R.E.A.L. Receives Good Press, Great Reviews from Students, Educators

Receiving recent attention in the *Las Vegas Review Journal* (March 5, 2007 - *Nevada and the West*; March 27, 2007 - *Viewpoint*), Project R.E.A.L. continues to change young lives for the better.

Relevant Education About the Law (R.E.A.L.) is a privately funded foundation that helps students of all ages understand democracy and the Constitutions and judicial systems of Nevada and the United States. The recent press coverage in

the *Las Vegas Review Journal* extolled the virtues of the program as an opportunity for teens to get an up-close and personal view of the true workings of the criminal justice system. From this courtroom to the holding cell, the grim realities for those individuals who find themselves on the wrong side of the law take on dismal clarity as students tour real facilities and come face-to-face with real consequences.

Project R.E.A.L. began in February 2005 as the brainchild of Las Vegas developer Irwin Molasky, who at the time served on the board of the National Judicial College. Irwin was inspired by a similar program in Boston and accordingly created his own in Clark County with the help of legal icon Sam Lionel. The Sawyer Center for Justice Studies was integrally involved in the development of the program, with Andre Walton, an



Andre Walton, above, was a Grant Sawyer Center RA and doctoral candidate in the Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Program when he helped develop Project R.E.A.L..

See R.E.A.L., pg. 5

Page 5 **R.E.A.L.**
continued from pg. 4

RA and doctoral candidate in Social Psychology being assigned to develop the program. Walton, who has since graduated and been hired by Project R.E.A.L., has worked with Judith Simpson for two years on various facets of this fine program.

Project R.E.A.L. has four

facets, including court tours, two websites, and R.E.A.L. Theater. The first website www.relevantlaw.org provides information about the program, the U.S. Constitution, and the Nevada Legislature for both educators and students. The website www.iawforkids.org is another resource in place for plain language answers to legal concerns. Walton, co-director

of the project, has stated that the www.lawforkids.org has received an average of 1,450 hits per month, and Molasky has stated he wants to quadruple that. The fourth component, R.E.A.L. Theater is in its fledgling stage, currently featuring a 20-minute play about immigration issues.

With youth participation on the rise (estimated 2,500 participants having experienced state and federal court tours) students themselves are commenting on the powerful reinforcement it provides to materials presented in the classroom. Educators are calling it a program with R.E.A.L. results, emphasizing the incredible strides the program has made since its inception, boding well for the has a bright and promising future.