Project Description:
The MindDrive project grew from Creative Studio, a class at DeLaSalle Education Center High School for at-risk teens. As part of the class, students are paired with a mentor. They learn how to break things down and how to build from an ordered process — a baseline matrix for creative and critical thinking. Students study design, aerodynamics and social issues related to cars and planning before designing a half-scale or full-size model. Each year the students expressed interest in designing and building a real car, and that is how the MindDrive project began.

Students built a car weighing 1,100 pounds (a fraction of a typical electric vehicle) that tested equivalent to 300 mpg at 38 mph and 443 mpg at 25 mph according to a test conducted by Bridgestone Proving Grounds.

Project Goals:
- Inspire students’ desire to learn.
- Expand students’ vision of their future.
- Transform the urban workforce.
- Address important issues of our time.
- Prepare students for productive lives.

Community Benefits:
Academically challenged students facing many obstacles come away from the MindDrive project more mature, inspired to learn and excited about their futures. Some now aspire to be engineers, architects, videographers and environmentalists.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:
The 2010 program was funded by individuals who have contributed approximately $40,000. The class has evolved into a nonprofit corporation called MindDrive that promotes, nationally and internationally, the educational concept of experiential learning with participation by industry professionals.