



News Release

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Kansas City Kids' Cross-Country Odyssey Promises to Electrify Education

MINDDRIVE Participants Will Drive Electric Car Coast-to-Coast;

2,500-Mile Journey Begins June 11 in San Diego

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 6, 2012 --- Demonstrating the value of hands-on education and mentoring in shaping a child's future, students from MINDDRIVE, a non-profit, after school program for at-risk high school students, today received a heroes' send-off at Kansas City's Union Station as they embark on a 10-day, 2,500-mile trek across the country in an electric car they designed and built themselves.

Electrify Heartland supports MINDDRIVE as two teams of students will drive the all-electric 1977 Lotus Espirit across the country following Interstates 8 and 10, departing from San Diego on June 11 and arriving in Jacksonville, Fla. on June 21. The first team will drive from San Diego to San Antonio and a second team will drive from San Antonio to Jacksonville. Along the way, MINDDRIVE students will meet with their peers to talk about their experiences and to deliver presentations to community groups in a tour entitled, "Electrifying Education."

"This is a proud day for Kansas City and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our kids," said MINDDRIVE Founder and Chief Executive Officer Steve Rees. "We created MINDDRIVE as a way to inspire at-risk teens to learn, expand their vision of their futures and to have a positive influence on workforce development, but the adult mentors—myself included—never imagined that it would be the kids who ended up inspiring us."

The Lotus is driven by a seven-inch direct current motor powered by 30 3.2-volt, 180 amp hour lithium ion batteries, which are wired in series to produce 96 total volts. The car has been road-tested and

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is capable of speeds of up to 55 miles per hour and has a range of roughly 100 miles on a single charge. The MINDDRIVE support team will transport a stand-alone 220-volt generator, enabling the car to completely recharge its batteries in approximately one hour.

MINDDRIVE is a 501(c)(3) educational program that uses experiential methods to teach at-risk urban high school teens through hands on work in its automotive design and contemporary communication classes. The automotive class builds prototype ultra-high-efficiency alternative fuel plug-in electric vehicles designed to drive efficiently. The communication class teaches students how to write, present, photograph, video, construct and manage web pages and use social media channels.

MINDDRIVE's current class has 18 students from five urban Kansas City high schools. Students work on a one-to one ratio with mentors who are engineers, designers, automotive specialists and talented people from all walks of life.

To qualify for the program, all MINDDRIVE students are tested by a staff social psychologist for suitability and adaptability to the MINDDRIVE disciplines. All students also must attend school, maintain passing grades in every class and participate in Saturday work sessions at the MINDDRIVE garage, located at 2615 Holmes in Kansas City, Mo. Supplemental academic tests are given on Saturday mornings and grade cards are issued.

For more information, or to "follow" the MINDDRIVE "Electrifying Education" cross-country tour, visit www.minddrive.org.

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