

AI-Based Vehicle Technology Simulator with Behavioral Strategies

P.I.
 Nilanjan Sarkar, PhD
Co-P.I.'s
 Mary Baker-Ericzen, PhD
 Keivan Stassun, PhD
Project Manager
 Dave Caudel, PhD
Researchers
 Abigale Plunk, PhD Student
 Juliette Meehan
 Amanda Ferrell, MS
 Reilly MacDonald, MS
Software Engineer
 Devon Wilson

1 in 36 Individuals in the United States have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

not autistic autistic

Each year in the US, approximately **70,000** autistic children become adults and face a litany of disheartening statistics regarding:

Independent living

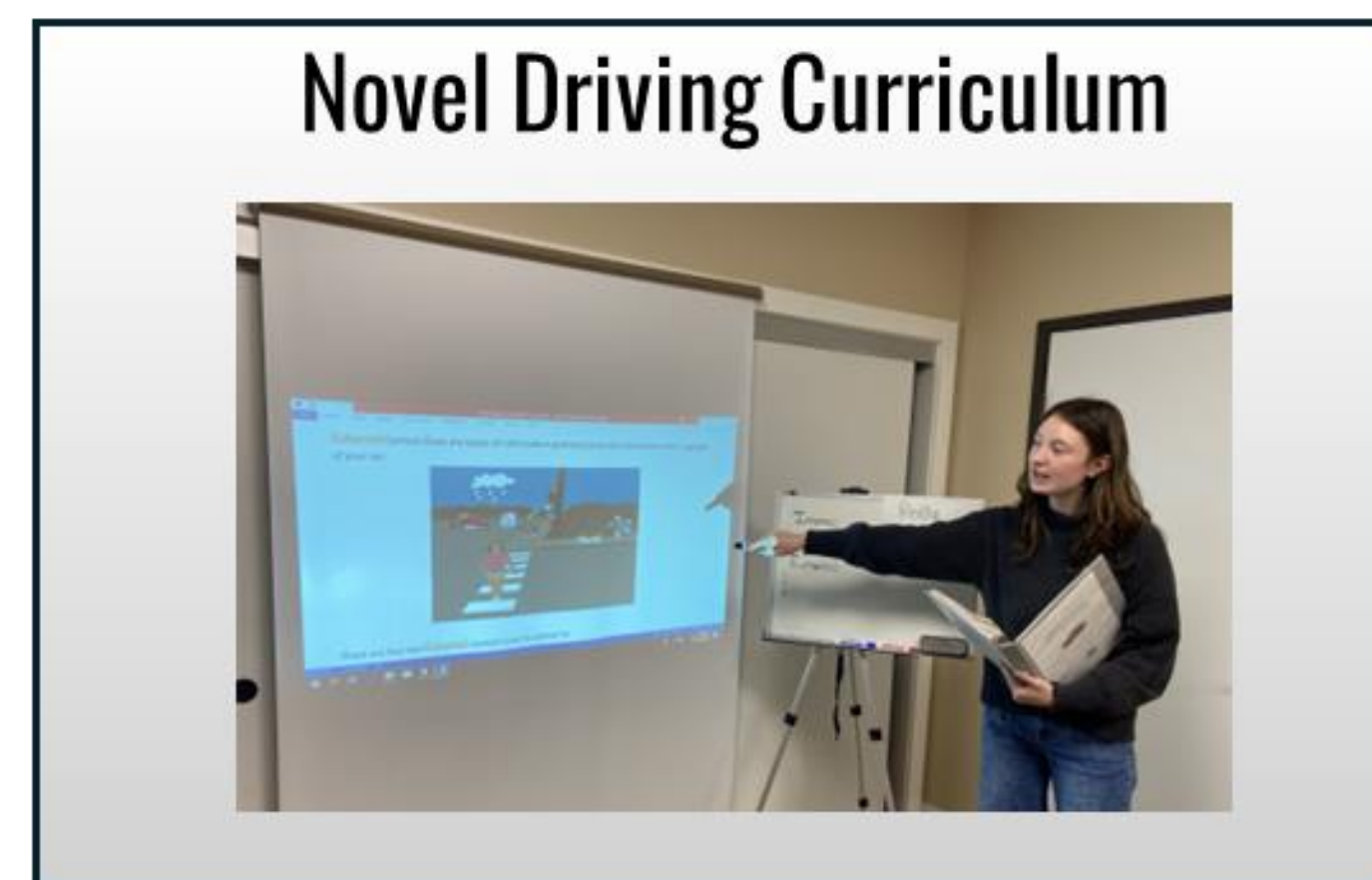
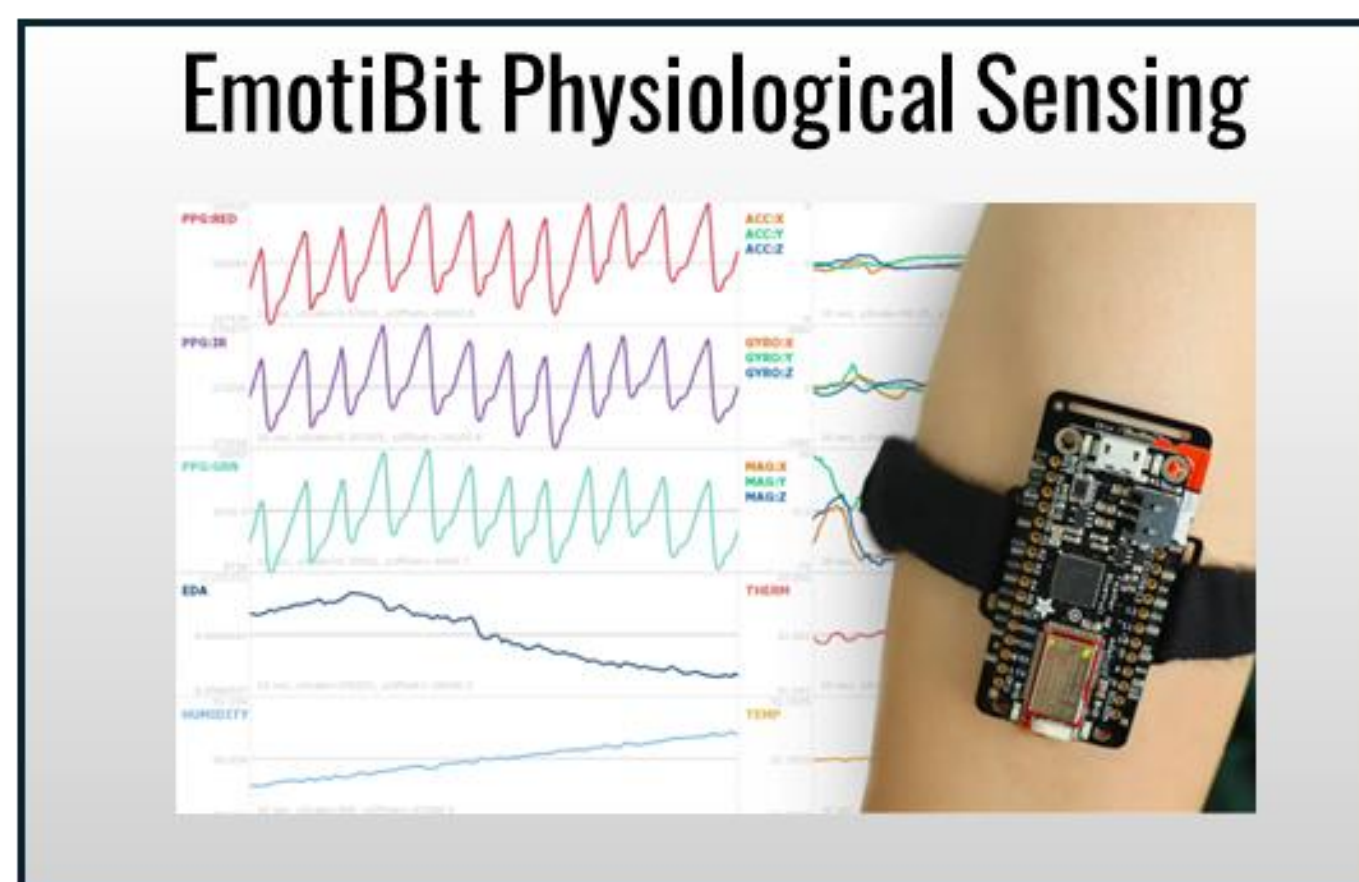
Employment

Community Participation

Fewer than **30%** of driving-age autistic individuals are licensed to drive. → Lack of independence and ability to gain work opportunities

Project Challenge

Address the transportation and employment challenges autistic adults face in the US using a cost-effective AI-based virtual driving instruction platform and a novel driving curriculum.



Project Innovation

Engage a diverse group of civic partners in a collaborative effort to thoroughly assess the effectiveness of our driving training program for autistic individuals.

Address field deployment challenges and the financial sustainability of the program through research pilot implementation.



An example of urban and rural scenery in our driving simulator.

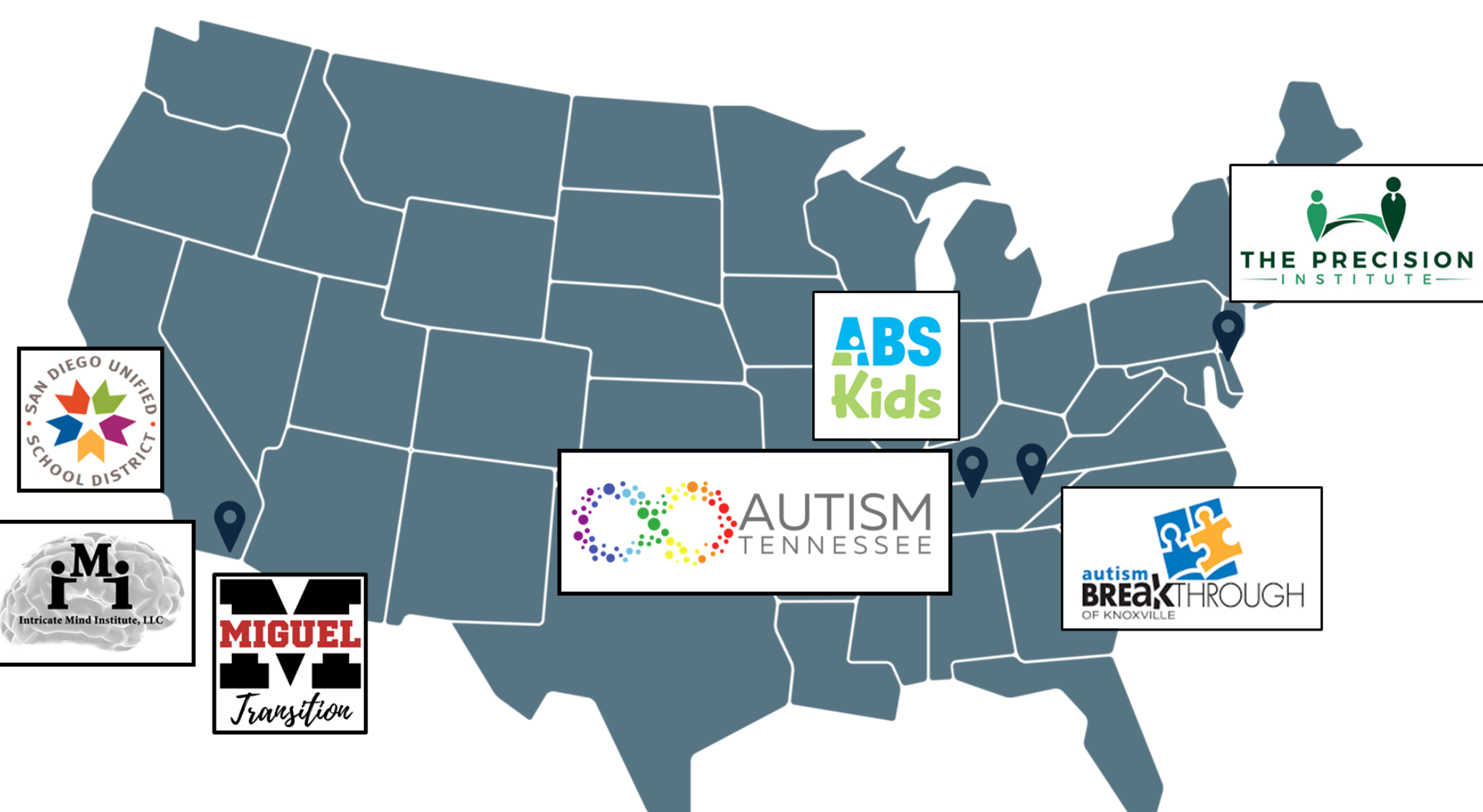
Project Outcomes

- 25 participants have completed the program
- 92% found the program helpful and worthwhile
- 96% found the simulator prepared them for driving.
- Interest in pursuing a license rose from 42% to 92%
- 96% felt positive about driving after the program
- 88% of caregivers were satisfied and oversaw positive changes in their teen/adult's approach to driving

Next Steps

Efforts are underway to commercialize the driving simulator, expanding its reach to help more neurodivergent individuals safely learn to drive.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Simulator for Advanced Neurodiverse Driving Instruction

VISIT OUR PROJECT WEBSITE!

