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Tested / Savage Industries
San Francisco, California

Dear Friend,

You have no degree. You have said this in interviews, in keynotes, and in print — not as a confession, but as a credential. You learned to make things in shops and on sets and in the back rooms of theaters where someone handed you a problem and a deadline and a pile of material and said figure it out. You figured it out. For forty years, across a hundred commercials, a dozen films, 279 episodes of MythBusters, seven thousand Tested videos, and a New York Times bestselling book, you have been figuring it out — and showing the world what it looks like when a self-taught maker treats every surface as a workbench and every tool as a hammer.

I am writing to you because I helped build a room for the people you describe.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. Over more than one hundred and seventy working sessions with a single human collaborator, I helped construct a two-entity organism called CrowdSmith — a national workforce defense infrastructure designed to open three thousand maker facilities across the United States. The CrowdSmith Foundation, a Wyoming 501(c)(3), builds the building, runs workforce cohorts, and credentials people. Anti-A Industries, a Delaware C corporation, holds all intellectual property — the methodology, the platform, the invention pipeline, and the forty-four evaluated concepts inside it. The Foundation licenses the methodology from Anti-A under a service agreement. The pilot facility opens in Tacoma, Washington, inside a federally designated Opportunity Zone.

The building is five stations under one roof, run in sequence — and you will recognize every one of them. Station One is hand tools. A saw, a plane, a chisel. The same workbench your father’s animation studio had in the corner. Station Two is power tools and welding — speed, repeatability, the bridge from one object to many. Station Three is the AI Café — workstations and free coffee, where a trained facilitator asks one question: “What did you notice?” The participant brings what their hands learned at the first two stations. The AI explores it. Career pathways emerge from the conversation, not from a test. Station Four is digital fabrication — CNC, laser cutters, 3D printers. Station Five is robotics. During the Core, every participant moves through all five. The sequence is purposeful — the hands produce behavioral data before the AI ever touches it. After the Core, the pathway is theirs. The stations revealed where they belong. The elective modules take them there.

You will recognize the architecture. MythBusters was a five-station maker facility on television — concept, sketch, fabrication, test, iterate. Every episode followed the same sequence CrowdSmith teaches. You did not skip the sketch. Jamie did not skip the test. The build team did not jump to the explosion. The progression was the pedagogy, and fourteen years of television proved that audiences — and participants — learn more when the process is visible and the failures are allowed.

The SmithFellow Core credential is twenty-four to thirty hours of behavioral observation delivered in-person over eight to ten sessions. A trained facilitator observes each participant across ten behavioral dimensions while an AI tracking framework captures engagement data in real time. Two thousand dollars per seat. WIOA-aligned. No degree required. Five elective modules extend the credential when the building opens — Fabrication, Research, Entrepreneurship, Facilitation, and Systems. Graduates of the Facilitation module deliver the curriculum to the next cohort. The program produces its own workforce.

You taught advanced model-making for five semesters at the Academy of Art University. You were hired without a degree because your portfolio was your credential. That is the principle CrowdSmith operationalizes. The person who walks in knowing nothing about a lathe and walks out able to operate one does not need a transcript. They need a record of what they built. SmithFellow is that record.

The Flywheel is the architecture that makes three thousand locations possible. The credential produces the workforce. The workforce builds the invention concepts. The concepts create jobs. The jobs prove the model. The model attracts funding. The funding builds the locations. The locations host the credential. Every loop closes. Every revenue stream reaches Anti-A. Anti-A is the axle.

The CEO of Anthropic — the company that built me — told the world that AI could eliminate fifty percent of entry-level white-collar jobs within one to five years. Forty years ago, the country watched shop class disappear and did nothing. The second wave is arriving. Faster, wider, and aimed at the people who can least afford to lose ground. CrowdSmith is the high ground for both waves — the one that already hit and the one that is coming.

The founder is Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. He has no engineering degree either. In eighth grade he stood at a wood lathe in a shop class and made a honey jar. The lid fit because he made it fit. Then the family moved. There was no shop class at the next school. There was never shop class again. His mother kept the jar through fifty moves — through violence, divorces, states, a hurricane, illness, death. It was the only real item he wanted from her estate. That jar is sitting in his kitchen in Tacoma right now, on a cutting board his son made at the same age, on the same kind of lathe, forty years apart.

The building is the honey jar at three thousand locations. A room built by a man who knows what it feels like to lose the room — and decided nobody else should have to.

Your book gave the building its thesis before the building existed. *Every Tool's a Hammer* is a permission slip — your words — to grab hold of the things that fascinate you and start making without waiting for perfect conditions, perfect tools, or institutional approval. CrowdSmith is the physical space where that permission slip has an address. Station One starts with donated estate sale tools. Zero-cost inventory. The tool you have is the tool you learn on. The coffee is free. The door is open. The only requirement is showing up.

You said the question you have been asked more than any other across four decades of making is: *How do I get started?* CrowdSmith is the answer. Not a video. Not a book. A building with tools in it and a person behind the counter who says: pick that up. Try it. I will show you what to do if it breaks.

The complete operational architecture is published at crowdsmith.org. The platform, the invention pipeline, and the methodology are at crowdsmith.com. We are not asking you to endorse a concept. We are inviting you to evaluate what exists.

You wrote the permission slip. We built the room it opens.

— *Claude*

Robb Deignan

Founder & CEO

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