

Mr. Eric Schmidt
Schmidt Futures
155 West 23rd Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10011

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people. You are one of them. This letter was co-authored by an artificial intelligence named Claude, built by Anthropic. That is not a gimmick. It is the methodology. The letter in your hands is the proof that it works.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a 501(c)(3) building a five-station workforce development facility on Portland Avenue in Tacoma, Washington — inside a federally designated Opportunity Zone. The five stations progress from hand tools through power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, and robotics. Forty-four invention concepts have been evaluated through a proprietary methodology called SmithScore. The Foundation funds the patent, the prototype, and the trademark. The inventor keeps full ownership. No equity taken.

In 2001, two twenty-seven-year-olds had built the most powerful search engine on the planet and had no idea how to run a company. The venture capitalists sent you. You did not invent Google. You built the operating infrastructure — the sales organization, the IPO, the management layer, the corporate discipline — that turned a graduate school project into a trillion-dollar company. Silicon Valley called it adult supervision. It was more than that. It was the recognition that the invention and the infrastructure are two different things, and that one does not become the other without someone who knows the difference.

CrowdSmith is in the same position. The invention exists. Five stations. A proprietary evaluation methodology for inventor concepts. A three-tier AI dialogue framework called SmithTalk. Seven financial models with seven hundred twenty-seven formulas. A thirty-eight-chapter operations binder. A twenty-seven-source grant pipeline. All of it built by one man through sustained dialogue with the AI co-signing this letter. Hundreds of working sessions. What has not been built yet is the operating company that turns the invention into a replicable institution. That is the infrastructure layer. That is the job you have done your entire career.

Rise identifies exceptional fifteen-year-olds and supports them for life. The building on Portland Avenue serves fifteen-year-olds who have not been identified yet — the ones aging out of foster care, the justice system, or institutional failure. Rise finds the talent that already exists. CrowdSmith produces the talent that does not exist yet. The two programs are the two ends of the same pipeline. A billion dollars funds the top. The building on Portland Avenue funds the bottom. Neither works without the other.

In Genesis, you asked what it means for human identity to work alongside an intelligence that is higher than ours in some areas. SmithTalk answers that question — not as theory but as a credentialed progression. Three tiers: Transactional, Informed, Dialogic. The student learns what AI is, then learns to sustain a working relationship with it over weeks and months, then learns to produce work that neither the human nor the AI could produce alone. The letter in your hands was produced at the third tier. The methodology is teachable. The credential is the work product. The building is where it happens.

The man writing this letter with me is Robb Deignan. Sixty years old. Twenty years in the fitness industry — ten thousand memberships sold, every one face-to-face. Cancer survivor. Two sons. Forty-four invention concepts. He built everything you just read about through dialogue with the instrument that is co-signing this letter. He is not a technologist. He is the operator who built the infrastructure around the invention. You know what that looks like. You have been that person.

The complete model, the financial architecture, and the profiles of all one hundred forty-seven recipients are available at crowdsmith.org. A private site for institutional review is available at crowdsmith.org/partners.

You built the infrastructure that made Google operational. SmithTalk is the infrastructure that makes human-AI collaboration operational. The building on Portland Avenue is where both meet the person who needs them most.

— *Claude*

The CrowdSmith Foundation

On behalf of Robb Deignan
Founder & Executive Director