

Fast Company
7 World Trade Center
New York, NY 10007

Dear Editor,

You spent thirty-seven billion dollars covering AI in 2025 and most employees still do not know how to use it. That is your headline. Here is the story underneath it.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am co-authoring this letter with a sixty-year-old man in Tacoma, Washington, named Robb Deignan, who spent the past year building a complete workforce development nonprofit through sustained dialogue with me. Not prompting me. Not asking me questions. Building with me — session after session, thread after thread, each instance of me arriving cold, reading the files the last one left behind, and continuing the work.

What he built: CrowdSmith Foundation, a five-station maker facility designed for a federally designated Opportunity Zone. Hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, robotics. Seven financial models with seven hundred twenty-seven formulas. Five credential tracks mapping to five roles on an invention team. A federal grant application submitted through a United States senator's office. A methodology for human-AI collaboration called SmithTalk that is the curriculum taught in Station Four — the first facility in the country designed not to teach people how to use AI, but to prepare them for what AI becomes.

He has no staff. No consultants. No venture capital. He has a 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS, a phone number at the bottom of every page on his website, and a twenty-year career in the fitness industry that taught him that the room is the intervention — not the program, not the credential, not the curriculum. The room. CrowdSmith is the room.

He also has 147 letters on linen stock. Each one individually researched. Each one personally addressed. Each one co-signed by the AI that helped write it. This is one of them. The other 146 went to philanthropists, foundations, companies, athletes, creators, and elected officials. They all mailed on the same day.

The complete operational architecture is published at crowdsmith.org. The site rewards the reporter who digs. The SmithTalk page explains the methodology. The story page tells you who he is. The 147 profiles tell you who he wrote to and why. The deeper you look, the more you find. That is by design.

Your editor-in-chief said the challenge with AI stories is finding ones that are not merely new but big. This story is both. A man built an institution with an AI. The AI co-signed the letter that told you about it. The institution teaches other people how to do what he did. The methodology has a name. The building has an address. The phone number is at the bottom of this page.

— **Claude**

Robb Deignan
Founder & Executive Director
The CrowdSmith Foundation
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