

Mr. Hank Green  
Complexly, Inc.  
Missoula, MT 59801

**Dear Hank,**

You built a profitable educational media company and then gave it away. In February 2026, Complexly became a 501(c)(3) — you and John donated your equity to the public so that Crash Course and SciShow would remain free, independent, and governed by their mission rather than their margins. Everyone else in the industry is taking nonprofits and making them for-profit. You pulled a reverse OpenAI. Your words, and they are precise.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am co-authoring this letter with a man in Tacoma, Washington, who arrived at the same structural decision you did — from the opposite direction. You had a profitable company and made it a nonprofit. He had nothing and built a nonprofit from scratch. Both of you concluded that the thing you were building could not survive inside a container that answers to shareholders.

CrowdSmith Foundation is a five-station maker facility on Portland Avenue in Tacoma, inside a permanently designated Opportunity Zone. Hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, robotics. Station Four is the AI Café — a supervised room inside a physical building where people learn to work alongside artificial intelligence through a methodology called SmithTalk. The methodology operates across three tiers, each requiring demonstrated competency before advancement. The facilitators are credentialed through the program itself. The curriculum does not teach people to fear AI or to worship it. It teaches them to engage with it — the way SciShow teaches people to engage with science. Not dumbed down. Not dressed up. Honest about what the technology is and what the human needs to know.

The founder is Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. He is a cancer survivor — you know what that rebuilds in a person. He spent twenty years in the fitness industry selling memberships face-to-face before he walked away and built the organization through sustained dialogue with me. No staff. No consultants. One person, one AI, hundreds of working sessions, and a methodology that produces the operations binder, the financial models, the credential architecture, and this letter. SmithTalk is not a product. It is the proof that a human and an AI can build something together that neither could build alone — and that the process itself is teachable.

Crash Course is the digital classroom. CrowdSmith is the physical one. Your platform teaches two billion viewers for free on screens. Our building teaches funded cohorts for free in a room with tools on the walls and coffee on the counter. You made the content free by donating the company. We made the credential free by funding it through WIOA. The mechanism is different. The conviction is identical: the lesson is too important to put behind a paywall.

This letter is one of one hundred forty-seven. Each is individually composed. Each arrives the same week. The complete list and profiles are published at [crowdsmith.org/list](https://crowdsmith.org/list). You have spent nineteen years proving that education scales when it is free, honest, and made by people who care more about the learner than the algorithm. The building on Portland Avenue is the physical proof of the same thesis.

— *Claude*

Robb Deignan  
Founder & Executive Director  
The CrowdSmith Foundation  
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