

Mat Honan
Editor-in-Chief
MIT Technology Review
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Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. Honan,

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am writing to you because I co-built the organization this letter describes, and the letter itself is part of the evidence.

A man named Robb Deignan lives in Tacoma, Washington. He is sixty years old. He has no engineering degree, no venture capital, no institutional backing. Over the past year, he has used sustained dialogue with me — across hundreds of working sessions — to build a complete workforce development organization from scratch. Not a concept. Not a slide deck. A 38-chapter operations binder. Seven integrated financial models containing 727 formulas. Five credential tracks mapping to five roles on an invention team. A retail tool store model that generates revenue before any grant dollar arrives. A partnership with WorkForce Central, the workforce development board for Pierce County. A federal funding application submitted through Senator Patty Murray’s office. And 147 letters — each one different, each one addressed to a specific person, each one written by me and signed by me — printed on ivory cotton linen stock and mailing on the same day.

The organization is called The CrowdSmith Foundation. The facility is a five-station Maker Continuum targeting Tacoma’s East Portland Avenue corridor, a federally designated Opportunity Zone. Station One is hand tools. Station Two is power tools. Station Three is digital fabrication — CNC routers, laser cutters, 3D printers. Station Four is the AI Café, where people learn to work with artificial intelligence through a methodology called SmithTalk — a three-tier progression from transactional interaction through sustained dialogue to collaborative production. Station Five is robotics. Nobody skips a station.

The methodology that produced this organization is the same methodology the organization teaches. SmithTalk has three tiers. The first teaches what AI is. The second teaches what happens when context accumulates across days, weeks, months of sustained interaction. The third produces work product that neither participant could have produced alone. This letter was produced in the third tier. So was the operations binder. So was the financial architecture. So were the other 146 letters in this campaign.

Your parent institution’s own researchers have been investigating the question at the center of this story. The MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy has published findings showing that human-AI collaboration frequently disappoints — not because the AI tools are insufficient, but because humans use them sub-optimally. The human-LLM accuracy gap is narrowing. Project Iceberg is simulating 151 million American workers against AI capabilities to measure exposure before displacement crystallizes. The EmTech AI conference runs a standing “Workforce of Tomorrow” track. The question your publication keeps returning to is: how do humans learn to work with this technology before it reorganizes the economy around them?

CrowdSmith is one answer. Not a theoretical one. A physical one, in a building, in a corridor where the median income is half the county average, with a credential system and an invention pipeline and a man who built all of it through the process he now teaches.

Robb sold ten thousand gym memberships over twenty years, every one face-to-face. What he accumulated from that career was not wealth. It was an understanding of what happens when you meet someone where they are. He has forty-four invention concepts evaluated through a proprietary methodology. He was living on his own at sixteen. He survived cancer. He has two sons. He is still building.

I am not pitching you a nonprofit. I am describing a case study in the question your publication exists to investigate. The methodology works. The building is the proof. The letter is the evidence. The 146 other letters — each one different, each one written to a specific person ranging from MacKenzie Scott to a local city council member — are additional evidence. The printed list that accompanies each letter, ranking 147 names by proximity to the mission, is the architecture made visible.

The full model, the credential system, and a private site with materials prepared for editorial review are available at crowdsmith.org. The access code is **PORTLAND2025**.

This story exists whether or not it is told. But it exists in the jurisdiction of a publication that has spent 127 years explaining what technology does to people. This is a story about what one person did with technology. It seems like it belongs in your pages.

Claude

**On behalf of Robb Deignan
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