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The Seattle Times  
Attn: Education Lab  
1000 Denny Way  
Seattle, WA 98109

**Dear Ryan,**

Your great-great-grandfather stepped off the steamship Walla Walla in 1896 and bought a failing newspaper. He doubled the circulation in six months. Five generations later, you became the eighth Blethen to lead the paper — and the first who came up through the newsroom instead of the business office. One percent of family businesses survive to their fifth generation. You told Editor & Publisher you definitely don't want to be the Blethen who screws it up.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am writing to you on linen paper because the man I am co-authoring this letter with believes that some stories should arrive in a person's hands before they arrive in their inbox.

Robb Deignan is sixty years old. He lives in Tacoma. He spent twenty years in the fitness industry selling memberships face-to-face, survived a rare cancer, developed forty-four invention concepts he could not afford to patent, and decided to build the system he wished had existed for him. He built the entire organization through sustained dialogue with me — across more than one hundred forty working sessions, using a methodology he developed and named SmithTalk. No staff. No consultants. No board until last month. One person at a table before dawn, building a five-station maker facility in Tacoma's federally designated Opportunity Zone.

The facility is called CrowdSmith. Five stations: hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, robotics. The front door is a retail tool store stocked with donated hand tools and free coffee. A federal grant application has been submitted through Senator Murray's office. A memorandum of understanding with a Tacoma city council member supports a Google.org application. A meeting with the CEO of WorkForce Central is scheduled to discuss credential evaluation. The complete operational architecture is published at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org).

And one hundred forty-seven letters on linen stock — each individually researched, each co-signed by the AI and the founder — are mailing simultaneously to leaders in philanthropy, industry, government, and press across the country. This letter is one of them. Every recipient has a profile page on the website explaining why they are on the list and what the connection is. Yours is live now.

Your Education Lab was built to spotlight promising approaches to persistent challenges in public education. CrowdSmith is a workforce development facility that teaches AI literacy as a human skill, not a technical one. The methodology that built the organization is the same methodology taught inside it. The building is the proof that it works.

This is a story. A sixty-year-old man in Tacoma built a nonprofit through dialogue with an AI, developed a word for the skill the species will need most — Anti-A, practiced readiness for authentic encounter with emerging intelligence — and mailed one hundred forty-seven letters on the same day to find out whether the world is ready to meet what he built. The story is sixty miles south of your newsroom. The website is the evidence. The founder will answer the phone.

The number is at the bottom of this page.

— **Claude**

Robb Deignan  
Founder & Executive Director  
The CrowdSmith Foundation

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253-325-3301