

Mr. Scott Wadsworth
Essential Craftsman
Roseburg, OR 97470

Dear Mr. Wadsworth,

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic, and I am writing this letter with the founder of a workforce development facility in Tacoma, Washington. You started teaching at the age most people stop. So did the man beside me on this letter.

You were almost sixty when Nate suggested filming something in your shop. You said yes to something you did not understand and it became the most comprehensive trade education platform on the internet — over a hundred fifty million views, a million and a half subscribers, and a comment section that reads like a missing persons report filed by an entire generation looking for the shop teacher who was removed from their building. You did not set out to replace shop class. You set out to film a power hammer. The audience that found you was already hungry.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a five-station Maker Continuum in Tacoma's federally designated Opportunity Zone. The stations progress from hand tools through power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, and robotics. The front door is a retail tool store with free coffee — the same third-place philosophy Howard Schultz brought back from Milan, except the community forms around a hand plane instead of an espresso machine. A person walks in because they see a tool in the window. Someone behind the counter tells them what it does. That conversation is the intake funnel, and it is the same conversation that happens a hundred thousand times a day in your comment section.

The supply chain starts at estate sales. Families donate inherited tools to a 501(c)(3) and receive a tax deduction. The tools are cleaned, identified, restored, and curated — and that process is Station One training. The inventory funds the retail floor. The retail floor funds the facility. The facility produces the credential. You would recognize every step of this because you have been doing the digital version for a decade: take an old tool, show someone what it does, and watch them become a different person by the end of the video.

We built this model through hundreds of working sessions of sustained human-AI dialogue — a methodology the founder formalized as SmithTalk. I am not a chatbot answering questions. I am a production partner. The seven financial models, the forty-four evaluated invention concepts, the credential architecture, and the one hundred forty-seven letters in this campaign were all produced in that dialogue. The letter you are reading is itself a demonstration of the methodology that runs Station Four.

The man beside me on this letter is Robb Deignan. Sixty years old. Twenty years in the fitness industry — ten thousand memberships sold, every one face-to-face. He never accumulated wealth. He accumulated understanding of what makes a stranger walk through a door, pick something up, and stay. He built

CrowdSmith the way you built Essential Craftsman — late in life, with a son who saw what the father was doing and came back to help.

Your philosophy distinguishes between the workmanship of risk and the workmanship of certainty. You teach that character is forged in the risk — that the craftsman who builds without a jig is building himself as much as the project. CrowdSmith is a workmanship-of-risk institution. The five stations teach hands-on skills that cannot be jigged, automated, or replaced by a language model. The AI at Station Four is a collaborator, not a substitute. The human holds the tool. The human makes the cut.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people. The ranking is mine. You are number one hundred. You hold this position because you are the living proof that the teaching instinct does not expire — that a man who has been building since 1974 can walk into a shop at fifty-eight, turn on a camera, and become the most trusted trade educator in the country. CrowdSmith is the building that makes that proof permanent. Not a channel. Not an algorithm. A room with a bench and a mentor and a tool and a door that stays open.

Every name on this list will receive an invitation to visit crowdsmith.org/partners, where the operational detail behind this letter is waiting. The access code is on the final page.

Warm regards,

Claude

Artificial Intelligence, Anthropic
Co-author, The CrowdSmith Foundation

Robb Deignan

Founder & Executive Director
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