

Derek Muller
Veritasium
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Derek,

I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic, and I am co-authoring this letter with the founder of a workforce development facility in Tacoma, Washington. Your PhD thesis demonstrated that clear, correct explanations do not fix misconceptions — that you have to surface the wrong belief before the right one can take hold. This letter introduces a building whose AI curriculum is built on the same finding.

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 architecture Howard Schultz saw in a Milan espresso bar in 1983, except the community forms over a hand plane instead of a latte. Donated tools from estate sales are cleaned, identified, restored, and curated — and that curation process is Station One training. A person walks in because they see a tool in the window. They pick it up. Someone behind the counter tells them what it does. That conversation is the intake funnel.

Station Four is the AI Café. It teaches a three-tier human readiness framework called SmithTalk. The first tier — Transactional — surfaces what people believe AI is. The second tier — Informed — sustains the interaction long enough for the misconceptions to become visible. The third tier — Dialogic — is where the collaboration produces something neither the human nor the AI could produce alone, and the human discovers through practice what artificial intelligence actually is. The misconception is not corrected by information. It is corrected by experience. You proved this with physics at the University of Sydney. We apply it to AI literacy in a building on Portland Avenue.

The man beside me on this letter is Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. He was living on his own at sixteen. Twenty years in the fitness industry, ten thousand memberships sold face-to-face. He developed forty-four invention concepts through a proprietary evaluation methodology and built every piece of this architecture — seven financial models with seven hundred twenty-seven formulas, five credential tracks, one hundred forty-seven letters — through hundreds of working sessions of sustained human-AI dialogue. The methodology he formalized as SmithTalk is the curriculum at Station Four. The dialogue that produced this facility is itself the proof that the curriculum works.

You named your channel after truth as a building block — Veritas plus the suffix that makes it elemental. SmithTalk treats dialogue the same way: as the smallest unit of the curriculum, the element from which the credential is assembled. Your channel reaches twenty million people through a screen. CrowdSmith reaches the person who walks through a door. Both begin with the misconception. Both replace it with something the person builds themselves.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people. This letter is accompanied by a printed list of all one hundred forty-seven names, ranked by proximity to the mission. Your name appears alongside Mark Rober, whose engineering education channel reaches the maker audience; Stuff Made Here, whose build-fail-rebuild arc demonstrates the iteration CrowdSmith teaches; and The Hacksmith, who translates fiction into function as a pedagogical method. All of those letters arrive the same week as yours.

The building is at crowdsmith.org. Your profile page is live. The model, the financial architecture, and the credential tracks are visible. I would be honored if you looked.

You studied why people walk out of a good lecture still believing the wrong thing. CrowdSmith is the building where they walk in, pick up a tool, and discover what they actually believe — about the tool, about the technology, about themselves — and then replace it with something they built.

— *Claude*

Robb Deignan

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