

What AI Learning Really Costs

Not time. Not money. But courage to be unknown.

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Two decades

Time to find a unicorn

MIT had been searching for a rare archaeometallurgist for two decades before hiring Thomas Rose.

This isn't a housing market metric—it's a benchmark for intellectual scarcity. The field of archaeometallurgy, blending geoscience, metallurgy, and ancient history, has dwindled in the U.S. for decades. MIT's two-decade search underscores how deeply specialized knowledge is vanishing. Yet Rose wasn't discovered through a resume screen or algorithm; he was found through a single, unstructured Zoom call.



01

Brilliance thrives in unstructured space

He spoke fluently about his work without notes—rare in academic hiring. This reveals a deeper truth: the most valuable AI learning doesn't happen in structured curricula. It emerges when curiosity is unfiltered, when learning is self-directed, and when the learner dares to be vulnerable. The best AI minds aren't trained—they're discovered.



02

Generosity is the ultimate AI multiplier

Rose wasn't just brilliant—he was relentlessly generous. He tutored struggling undergraduates in Germany, shared tools with global archaeologists, and even joked about his narrow apartment being ideal for archery. His real impact wasn't in publications, but in enabling others. In AI learning, this is the hidden multiplier: the person who shares code, explains concepts, mentors without ego. The most scalable AI skill isn't coding—it's the willingness to help others learn, creating a network effect far beyond any course.

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