

## **What would your dream school be like?**

### **Audience at “*Most Likely To Succeed*” discussed the possibilities**

On Friday, April 8th and on Sunday, April 10th, the Los Alamos Public Schools, the Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and Biodidact (a community lab in Los Alamos) sponsored showings of *Most Likely To Succeed*, a documentary about re-imagining education. There will be one more showing and discussion on Friday, April 15th at 7 p.m. at Duane Smith Auditorium.

The film opens with a parent teacher conference where a little girl was in tears as she explained why she was struggling in math. She just wasn't interested in it. Her teacher explained that it was important to learn math so that she could get into college and get a job.

*Most Likely to Succeed* challenges the current model of our education system, where students are asked to learn volumes of subject matter content, pass tests and get good grades on those subjects in order to get into college and eventually get a job where you *finally* use all this knowledge.

The problem with the current model is that it doesn't prepare students for the 21st century economy. Technology has made it possible for companies to produce more wealth than ever while hiring fewer people. The skills that were useful during the 20th century are no longer valued.

So what skills are valued? It's hard to say, since students are in the process of preparing for jobs that may not even exist. Showing the film gives the sponsors, LAPS, JJAB, and Biodidact a chance to open up the conversation about how our schools will look in the future. Each screening was followed by a panel discussion.

This conversation is especially timely, because this year a volunteer group of local teachers, parents and community members worked together to enter a nationwide competition sponsored by the XQ institute. The XQ Institute is made up of a group of educators and entrepreneurs including Laurene Powell Jobs, the widow of the late Apple founder Steve Jobs. It plans to award \$10 million dollars to five school districts who have designed a “new” type of high school.

Los Alamos' grant proposal, the Odyssey High School Project, was one of 50 projects chosen out of 1,200 to make it to the next level of the competition. They will submit a detailed implementation plan on May 23rd. LAPS Superintendent Kurt Steinhaus said, “Even if we don't get the money, just having the conversation about what our dream school would be like is completely worth it.”

**Students, parents, business owners and community members are encouraged to join the discussion. Like the Facebook page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/LosAlamosSuperSchoolProject/>**

**Visit the LAHS Odyssey Super School Webpage: <http://www.laschools.net/domain/1162>**