



# News Release

**SAN DIEGO DISTRICT OFFICE**

**Release Date:** November 10, 2011    **Contact:** Cynthia Harris, (619) 727-4884 | [Cynthia.harris@sba.gov](mailto:Cynthia.harris@sba.gov)

**Release Number:** 11-19

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

## **SBA Deputy Administrator Toured the Business of a Local Young Entrepreneur**

*San Diego Sky Tours owner is part of the next generation of entrepreneurs*

**SAN DIEGO**— During a recent visit to San Diego, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Deputy Administrator Marie Johns visited San Diego Sky Tours at Montgomery Field Airport. Johns was in town to speak at a [Young Entrepreneur Series](#) (YES) event put on by White House and SBA on the campus of San Diego State University.

[San Diego Sky Tours](#) provides aerial sightseeing tours of sunny San Diego and also offers other aerial services such as private flight instruction, commercial land surveys and Aerial photography/videography. Entrepreneur Ryan Poortinga started the business after graduating from San Diego State University and having a hard time finding a job in his field. Ryan came up with the idea for the business with his best friend, James “Jim” Kapenas, a licensed pilot. The idea started as a personal sightseeing tour, given by Jim, to visiting friends and family. Ryan and Jim met in 2005. They both worked at a downtown bar. When Ryan’s parents were visiting he asked Jim if he would take the three of them on an aerial tour of San Diego. Jim agreed and Ryan was introduced to the world of aviation.

Ryan wrote a business plan for an aerial tours business and entered it into a business plan competition, which he won. After the competition, Ryan met with professional business advisors at the [Southwestern College Small Business Development & International Trade Center](#) and received help with further developing his business idea. After a few business counseling sessions, Ryan launched his business, San Diego Sky Tours, and is currently doing well enough to hire his company’s first employee.

SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns says “Ryan’s story demonstrates that young people can start a wide variety of businesses—all they need is the tools to get started. I’m so pleased that an SBA resource partner was able to help this young entrepreneur create a job for himself and jobs for several others here in San Diego.”

For more information about [San Diego Sky Tours](#) contact Ryan Poortinga at (619) 757-6419

E-mail: [ryanp@sandiegoskytours.com](mailto:ryanp@sandiegoskytours.com)

Visit [www.sba.gov/young](http://www.sba.gov/young) to learn more about SBA’s programs for young entrepreneurs. Visit [www.sbditc.org](http://www.sbditc.org) for more information about how the SBDITC may assist you in reaching your small business goals.