



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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### **SBA Applauds Native American Youth Entrepreneurs**

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Small Business Administration today applauded Indian Youth Entrepreneurial Day, held today by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The event brought together more than 50,000 Native American students at 185 BIA schools throughout the country. The students explored small business start-up, learned business planning basics and other aspects of entrepreneurship.

The aim of Indian Youth Entrepreneurial Day is to encourage Native American students to learn about entrepreneurship and business concepts in a real business classroom setting.

“It is a pleasure for the SBA to support Indian Youth Entrepreneurial Day and to play a role in working with Native American youths to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit that is vital to building stronger tribal communities,” SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. “Entrepreneurship is the cornerstone of job creation and the SBA is dedicated to helping Native American businesses succeed and create jobs in their communities.”

The students viewed a taped welcome address from Administrator Barreto, Office of Native American Affairs Director Thelma Stiffarm and Dave Anderson, assistant secretary of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Various SBA regional and district offices took part in the youth entrepreneur events, joined by SBA’s resource partners – SCORE, Women’s Business Centers and Small Business Development Centers. Native American small business owners also were invited to attend and participate.

Last year, the SBA and the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, a Bureau of Indian Affairs operated institution, partnered to develop small business training and tools for tribal communities, including teaching business and entrepreneurship to Native American students.

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*For more information about all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov> in English, or [www.negocios.gov](http://www.negocios.gov) in Spanish.*

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