

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

FASTEST
100



Coast Flight Training

CEO: Will Dryden
Location: 3753 John J. Montgomery Drive, San Diego.
2010 revenue: \$1.1 Million.
2008 – 2010 growth: 439 Percent.
No. of local full-time employees: 15.
Web site: www.iflycoast.com.

No. 7

The Sky is Not the Limit at Coast Flight Training Aviation School Trains Future Pilots for Real-life Scenarios in the Sky

The President of Coast Flight Training in San Diego, Will Dryden, sensed the need for a flight training school offering more than the basic skills to pass a flight inspection. In 2008, he opened an aviation school that would implement an intensive "scenario-based" training that concentrates on fun and innovative teaching methods that prepare pilots to take to the sky with the right knowledge and mindset.

"We train our students to actually fly with confidence," states Dryden.

Coast Flight Training has increased its revenue by more than 439 percent from 2008 to 2010 and employs 15 full-time workers. The company reported revenue of nearly \$1.1 million in 2010. Internationally, the aviation school is considered to be among the best and is ranked seventh in the San Diego Business Journal's list of Fastest-Growing Private Companies.

The company benefits from its location in San Diego because it is a city that people desire to live in as well as visit. The company is in the process of expanding into additional locations.

Coast Flight wanted to change the dynamics in the training criteria, Dryden noted. One of the crucial goals for the company is to mix business and pleasure with flight training.

"Flight training was supposed to be cool, similar to the movie, 'Top Gun,'" said Dryden. "Instead it was a grumpy pilot training students on how to pass a test."

Those who have been trained

at his flight school and also worked with Coast Flight Training find joy in the journey of flying and are ready for real world scenarios. The training places student-pilots in realistic situations. "The more realistic the situation is, that calls for a student to use practical skills to become a proficient pilot," said Dryden.

student to fly in air traffic while overcoming obstacles in order to get past fear and anxiety.

The company also offers 24-hour private management for aircraft owners. This is a valet-style service and the aircraft owners can notify the pilot three hours in advance. When they arrive at their aircraft, the air conditioning is on

aviation."

In the future, Dryden is looking forward to offering training to international and local business clients. He has a Professional Pilot Bachelor of Science degree from Utah Valley University and he is passionate about the joy of the journey that aviation offers.

"I thank God and my family



Bob Hoffman Video and Photography

(Left to Right) Ronnie Greathouse, CEO Will Dryden, Kathy Dryden, Jeff Bushnell, Cameo Ortega, Eric Midby and Patricio Puga

When students first start their training they write a list of destinations where they would like to fly. Coast Flight Training integrates the desired locations into the training. This also requires the

and a drink is waiting for them, he said.

"People are looking for joy in life and ways to make things simple," said Dryden. "We can provide that flexibility through

for the support and success," said Dryden. "My wife and children are my motivation behind every day at Coast."