

Abbott/ from page 1

improvement at the university. "Program review is not, at this institution, where it should be. We've not been as active as we should be," Abbott said, adding that such a review will be launched in 2009-10.

"Diversity, in both the faculty and the student body, while we continue to make gains, is always an area in which we struggle," he said. Steps to improve that situation include the hiring of a chief diversity officer and an assistant diversity officer.

"We're also continuing our efforts to support our students academically," Abbott said. An academic advising center, a career development center, a center for academic engagement and other support facilities will be located in the university library. "Clearly, this is a step forward in our services to our students. Any student who cannot or says he or she cannot and does not receive help from this campus clearly is not seeking. This is a great addition and I'm very appreciative of all of those who have worked on this."

Research and creative activity

Abbott said USD's goals in the area of research and creative activity include:

- To conduct research comparable to that at the

smaller universities that currently have high research activity, and;

- To create an infrastructure to foster research aligned with South Dakota's 2010 initiative for economic development.

There are signs that the university is already taking strides to meet those goals. USD's funded research has increased from \$10 million in 1997 to \$29 million in fiscal year 2008.

"This despite a significant decrease in what used to be our main funding agency – the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services... How have we made up for that difference? Fortunately, our schools and colleges stepped up their efforts to expand their research. Arts and Sciences has been particularly successful, not through anything but an enormous amount of hard work and cooperation," he said.

The School of Education is also making significant gains in its research activity, thanks, in part, to the securing of Bush Grant and other funding for programs. "It is a clear indication of not only success, but of seeking research success and continuing toward achieving our goal of \$60 million," he said. "It is an ambitious goal," he added, stating that he is confident the university will reach

that milestone within five years. "We need to retain our traditional funding base, which in fiscal year 09 is approximately \$30 million, and we need to add a minimum of \$30 million over the next five years."

There are exciting areas of potential new or additional research to be addressed by USD. Abbott hopes to see the level of funded studies in the areas of energy, environment and climate increase from present levels of \$2 million to \$10 million. "This is an area of particular interest nationally," he said.

Another research area of particular importance involves neuro science and behavioral science. "Currently, we are doing about \$3 million in research, and we'd like to increase that to \$15 million. This is an area of particular interest to the Department of Defense because of stress and brain injury in returning soldiers."

USD also has plans to create a significant Native American research center housed in the old continuing education building. The university's Physics Department is also taking the lead, Abbott said, in the research planned for the underground laboratory planned in the former Homestake Mine in the Black Hills.

"To be successful in the research arena, we need to connect our research efforts with state economic development efforts," Abbott said. "For that we need a twofold approach. First we need to encourage active inventions on campus, and connect with off-campus partners to evaluate, protect and market inventions."

"Secondly, we need to foster USD-applied research efforts at the GEAR Center on the University Center campus in Sioux Falls," he said. "We have had success in both areas."

Student enrollment

"I agree that there is no magic number that we must meet," Abbott said, as he focused his attention on the university's enrollment. "But I believe that with our current faculty, our current faculty, and the space that we have available, that we should be able to support an additional 1,000 to 1,500 students."

He added that is important, particularly in the undergraduate level, to reach a level of student population "to make the campus as vibrant as it possibly can be."

USD has not met its goal of 1,200 first-time, full-time freshmen, Abbott said.

"The news is not all that bad, and it's not all that surprising," he said, as a chart

showing recent trends in the number of high school graduates in South Dakota appeared on the screen behind him.

The chart demonstrates substantial erosion in graduate numbers that likely won't show improvement for several years.

"This tells you, I think, what each and every one of the schools in our state has to deal with in order to maintain our viability," Abbott said.

The number of South Dakota high school graduates has declined from 9,577 in 2003-04, to 8,677 this year. That figure will bottom out at 8,213 in 2015, and will increase modestly.

"Just for comparison's sake, when I graduated from high school in 1966, there were 15,500 high school graduates in the state of South Dakota," he said. "That kind of indicates what has been happening over the past 40 years."

Abbott said increasing the number of new freshmen that enroll at USD each year, combined with improving the retention rates of older students, "would not only increase that additional vibrancy on campus that I mentioned earlier, but would also provide new dollars in the form of tuition reimbursements and fees that would allow us to make the investments that we need."

The university, he said, is

in the process of implementing a plan to maximize its enrollment. "I feel positive about that," Abbott said. "We're also in the process of implementing a plan to maximize retention. Most important of all, we are in the process of creating an institution-wide integrated marketing program."

The budget Abbott said USD must review its budgeting process to meet its goals of increased enrollment and retention. An advisory committee has been named to develop a budget model that aligns university resources with its strategic plan, and encourages investment in university initiatives and focuses on all university resources rather than select major funds.

"In short, I think one must provide incentives where one wants to succeed," he said. "I'm not positive that we have done that; I know we have not done that in some areas. I know we have been very traditional. I think we had, at best, review this very carefully and move forward."

"The point is, we will review the budget, a recommendation will be made, and the process will be changed to suit our goals and to facilitate them," he said.

Fun/ from page 1

The funds go to the local sheriff's office to help with the D.A.R.E. program, and helps pay for domestic violence services offered by the Vermillion Police Department. Some of the funding raised by the carnival also has made it possible to place portable defibrillators in local law enforcement vehicles.

Lisa had hoped 100 kids and their parents would be attracted to Saturday's carnival. That goal was surpassed; 120 children experienced the wide range of events offered at the Eagles Club that day.

"We like to get as much participation from community organizations as well as university organizations so they can showcase health and wellness of all different kinds, ranging from vision and dental to physical therapy," she said. "And of course, we want the police department here with its D.A.R.E. program. We like to get a lot of kids involved and get kids

exposed to health and wellness at an early age."

Kids had a blast making their own puppets, getting their faces painted, and watching as clowns Mickey and Jewel made and gave away balloon animals. They also interacted with local law enforcement and students from a wide range of disciplines at USD, from dental hygiene and communication disorders, to physical therapy.

"Every kid gets a treat bag with items such as coloring books and books with a message that tells them how they're special because of their unique talents," Lisa said. "There's lots of fun things for everybody here."

Participants, sponsors, and partners of the carnival include the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie and Auxiliary members, the city of Vermillion, Vermillion Police Department, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Child Protection Team, Ver-

million Fire & EMS, Vermillion Chamber of Commerce & Development Company, Vermillion Parks & Recreation, Sanford Vermillion, Vermillion Public Library, Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, Casey's, Vermillion Chiropractic, American Family Insurance, Market Street Café, McDonald's, Amy's Whoopi Do, Chesterman/Coca-Cola, Prairie Eye Clinic, Rebel Style, Brady Enterprises, USD Dental Hygiene, USD Communication Sciences and Disorders, USD Physical Therapy, United Way of Vermillion, Birth-to-Three and Three-to-Five Development Programs, Vermillion Taekwondo, "Mickey" and "Jewel" the Clowns, and the B, B, & B BBQ Team.

Michelle Haskell and Kelly Thurman also pitched in to help Geri and Lisa organize the event and make sure things ran smoothly that day.



Karla, Elena and Olivia Lewison, triplet daughters of Nichole Lewison of Vermillion, learn about the proper way to brush their teeth as they visit USD Dental Hygiene's table at Saturday's carnival. (Photo by David Lias)

Coyote Gameday

ANSWER THE CALL

Dakota Days...

Treasure the Tradition

Saturday
October 10th

vs. **Cal-Davis**

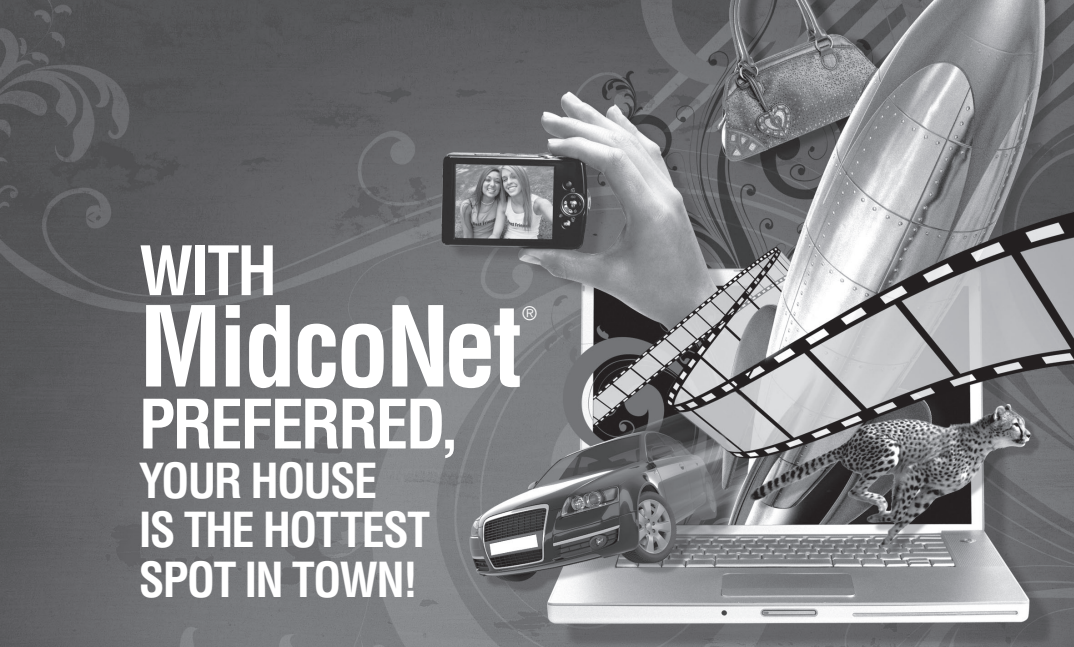
2:00 PM Kickoff

Tailgate Nation &
Yippin' Yotes Kids Zone
Open at 10 AM

Call
(605) 677-5959
or visit
www.usdcoyotes.com
for ticket information.

Get your tickets TODAY!



WITH MidcoNet[®] PREFERRED, YOUR HOUSE IS THE HOTTEST SPOT IN TOWN!

Now you can get three of our very best services – Theatre DVR Suite, MidcoNet[®] Preferred and Digital Phone Package, for an incredibly low price. The best entertainment, information and communication services will be right at your fingertips.

THEATRE DVR TRIO										
\$99⁰⁰	PER MO. FOR 12 MONTHS	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>REGULAR PRICE per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$136⁹⁵</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YOUR PRICE per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$99⁰⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YOUR SAVINGS per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$37⁹⁵</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL SAVINGS over 12 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$455⁰⁰</td> </tr> </table>	REGULAR PRICE per month	\$136 ⁹⁵	YOUR PRICE per month	\$99 ⁰⁰	YOUR SAVINGS per month	\$37 ⁹⁵	TOTAL SAVINGS over 12 months	\$455 ⁰⁰
REGULAR PRICE per month	\$136 ⁹⁵									
YOUR PRICE per month	\$99 ⁰⁰									
YOUR SAVINGS per month	\$37 ⁹⁵									
TOTAL SAVINGS over 12 months	\$455 ⁰⁰									

MidcoNet [®] PREFERRED & THEATRE DVR SUITE										
\$89⁰⁰	PER MO. FOR 6 MONTHS	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>REGULAR PRICE per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$116⁹⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YOUR PRICE per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$89⁰⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YOUR SAVINGS per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$27⁹⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL SAVINGS over 6 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$167⁰⁰</td> </tr> </table>	REGULAR PRICE per month	\$116 ⁹⁰	YOUR PRICE per month	\$89 ⁰⁰	YOUR SAVINGS per month	\$27 ⁹⁰	TOTAL SAVINGS over 6 months	\$167 ⁰⁰
REGULAR PRICE per month	\$116 ⁹⁰									
YOUR PRICE per month	\$89 ⁰⁰									
YOUR SAVINGS per month	\$27 ⁹⁰									
TOTAL SAVINGS over 6 months	\$167 ⁰⁰									

CALL 1.800.888.1300
MIDCOCOMM.COM/SPECIALOFFERS

WANT IT NOW!
Midcontinent COMMUNICATIONS

This limited time offer is available to new and upgrading residential customers only. All services not available in all areas and some restrictions apply. Taxes and fees not included. An HDTV is required to receive HD programming. Customer is responsible for modem purchase or lease required for MidcoNet[®] Preferred Broadband. Modem lease price is \$3/month for standard modem or \$5/month for wireless. Actual internet speeds may vary depending on your computer's capacity and web traffic. Speeds may also be impacted by third party equipment (such as your computer or router). Free installation (reg. \$35) is included with the Theatre DVR Trio. Installation is \$9.95 with Theatre DVR Suite and MidcoNet[®] Preferred bundle, and \$19.95 with MidcoNet[®] Preferred or Single Service only. MidcoNet[®] Digital Phone Package is available to residential customers only and includes one phone line with direct dialed, unlimited local and long distance calling to the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Other locations are considered international and charged at per minute calling rates (please check our website). Calling card calls, collect calls, 900 number calls, operator assisted calls and directory assistance are not included. Caller ID equipment not included. Expires 12/15/09.