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out knowing for sure that that great faculty will be here, and that those great students will be with us every step of the way. That is the reason we are here."

Michael Keller, dean of the Beacom School of Business, said the new facility is second to none in its field.

"In my travels as a dean, I've never seen a better academic building," he said. "It's not a stretch to say this, and it's true. This is as fine an academic building in the country, and that's a proud moment for USD."

Keller said one of the features that sets the building apart is its incubator space, which will allow students and faculty, as well as community entrepreneurs, to come into the building and use space to start their businesses.

"Many campuses have incubators, (but) no campus has their incubator inside their business school," he said. "We plan to do business in this building as well as teach business in this building."

Brad Jankord, president of the Beacom School of Business Council of Presidents, said that when he first heard about the new facility, two words came to mind: "Air conditioning."

"We now have a building that looks and feels as if it was made for the business students at USD," Jankord said. "We have progressed toward the full package deal. That is impressive to our communi-



Michael J. Keller, dean of the Beacom School of Business at The University of South Dakota, speaks to a standing-room-only crowd at the dedication of Beacom Hall Friday afternoon. Turnout was so heavy for the opening ceremony for the new building that people not only filled the large open area on the main floor, but also were forced to find room on the flight of stairs leading to the building's second floor. (Photo by David Lias)

ty, our alumni and current prospective students, and all those that visit the USD campus.

"Beacom Hall will now act as a major recruitment tool, offering students Division I academic status," he said.

Carole Pagones of the South Dakota Board of Regents added, "This building represents more than just a location for the school of business. It represents a foundation for students who will

someday impact the economy of our great state."

Beacom said cooperation between different groups and individuals is what gets any project accomplished.

"Everything I've been able to accomplish has been because of my family to my career family," he said. "I look at accomplishments, and there's nothing that I could have accomplished without them. And you look at what's happened on-campus at USD,

and you look at the success of the last 10 years, it's not one individual. It's a lot of people working together for the success of this university, and it's been overwhelming."

Abbott added, "Our university is full of great traditions and great people. We have great colleges in this state. We have great students in this state. It's a great state. And today, nothing is better than this wonderful building for our great students."

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through 18 years. H1N1 vaccine will be provided to the following targeted priority groups: contacts to infants who are under 6 months of age, infants and children 6 months of age through 4 years of age, and high risk children 5 years of age through the age of 18. There is no charge for the vaccine.

Parental consent is required for children younger than 18 so children should be accompanied by their parents.

"A lot of work has been going in the planning of this clinic," Froke said. "I hope folks take advantage of this for their children. H1N1 seems to hit the younger more so than any of the other age groups, so it's important that children be vaccinated."

Lavin noted that approximately a year of work has been devoted to planning the POD drill. "There's been a lot of time and effort put in making sure that as much preparation ahead of time could be done, and it just happens to be that we have an influenza outbreak at this time. This was something that had been put in the works years ago, and reformulated to fit this model," he said. "With the vaccine coming in here at the end of the month, it's time to get kids in and get them inoculated."

"It's primarily a nasal

spray this year," Lavin added. "It's not a shot. But shots will be available for the specific individuals who don't meet the criteria for the nasal mist."

Both local and state organizers want to see a strong turnout at the upcoming clinic.

"This will partly test the state's ability to see how many we can (inoculate) in a short amount of time," he said. "If we really needed to get 2,000 people inoculated, how many could we get done in two hours or three hours? We've had a couple flu clinics this year where we've hit 400 kids in a two-hour time frame, so it's doable. This is a great example of a drill that we actually need to do."

Organizers are seeking volunteers to help with registration and moving people through the clinic. Individuals interested in volunteering, or who have questions may contact the SD Department of Health at (605) 677-6767 in Clay County, or (605) 356-2644 in Union County.

H1N1 vaccine will be additionally offered through department community health offices, private clinics and other community clinics as it becomes available.

For more information about seasonal flu and H1N1 flu, see the Department of Health Web site at <http://doh.sd.gov>.

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Thursday, shortly after USD alum and founder of USA TODAY, Al Neuharth, presented her with the 20th annual Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media.

For the last three years, Couric has served as anchor and managing editor of the "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric." She also serves as a correspondent on "60 Minutes," and has anchored CBS News primetime specials.

When "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric" debuted on Sept. 5, 2006, Couric became the first female solo anchor of a weekday network evening news broadcast. Previously, Couric served as co-anchor of NBC's "Today."

Shortly before presenting her with the excellence in media award, Neuharth admitted he made a mistake when he first learned that Couric was hired by CBS to take over the network's evening newscast.

"I've learned to fess up some of the many times I've messed up. And so I want to acknowledge tonight that I was skeptical and critical in a USA TODAY column three years ago when CBS lured Katie Couric away from NBC," Neuharth said.

"I wrote that she 'probably can't cut it on serious, prime-time evening news.' Well, I was wrong," he said. "CBS and Katie Couric proved to be right. Katie shattered the glass ceiling that up until she came along, was there, and she broke up the men's club at the networks and at the anchor desks, and that was certainly long overdue."

Neuharth said Thursday that he is proud that in East River South Dakota, Couric's evening broadcasts have the highest ratings of the three major television networks.

"On KELO, Katie has the highest rating of any television station that she appears on in the country," he said. "Katie, this demonstrates to me, and I hope to you, that my fellow South Dakotans are great judges of character, personality, professionalism and

quality."

Couric told her Dakota-Dome audience that Thursday marked her first trip to South Dakota, and she wished she could stay longer. She was scheduled to fly home shortly after the award ceremony to spend the weekend with her daughter at her college.

"I really wanted to check out all that South Dakota has to offer," she said. "The Black Hills, Wounded Knee, Mount Rushmore, Carey's Bar."

The reference to one of Vermillion's most popular taverns garnered wild applause from the USD students in the DakotaDome.

"I know this weekend is Dakota Days," Couric said. "Even though I won't be here for homecoming, I feel that everyone has been so warm and welcoming, I really feel like I'm coming home, so thank you for being so gracious."

During the last three years, Couric has reported on and anchored newscasts and broadcasts for some of the biggest domestic and international stories. She has interviewed a diverse collection of newsmakers, from presidents and prime ministers to captains of industry and cultural icons.

She credits the support of her parents for giving her the drive that has led to such a successful career.

"My parents always made the four Couric kids," she said, speaking of herself, her brother and her two sisters, "feel like we could do anything and be anything. But this awakening made it seem like the three Couric girls actually could as well."

"Plus, a natural curiosity, outgoing nature and certain idealism made journalism a very attractive option," Couric said.

Stories containing tragedy aren't the only memorable experiences she has had in her time as a television journalist. The 2008 presidential election, Couric noted, was thrilling because for the first time, the nation had a viable woman candidate.

Hillary Clinton, she said, "made me so proud because she was so brilliant and I thought she cleaned everybody's clock in the debates. And of course, to have the first, serious African-American candidate was very excit-

ing as well.

"I also really enjoyed Sen. McCain. I had covered him for a long time, and had a nice, personal relationship with him. And Gov. Palin was so fascinating. It was a really, really fun campaign to cover."

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