

Thank you for such a warm welcome. The Lt. Governor and I are very happy to be here. This school is a pretty impressive place!

Special thanks to Megan, your student council president.

I am here today to recognize the active citizens in Brainerd, including young citizens like Megan. Within your school, Megan is a public servant--Just like I am public servant to the State of Minnesota. Her service on the student council helps make your school a better place just as my work as Governor helps make this state a better place.

Your work in this school is a good example of public service. All of you young people show a great deal of pride and responsibility in this community.

Let me see a show of hands.... (Ask students)

How many of you help run the school restaurant or the school store?

How many are in student council, peer mediators or work as student aides?

How about the mural in the hallway, how many of you helped make the school's mural?

As Governor, I want people all over Minnesota to be as involved in public service as you are in your school.

One of the reasons I came to Brainerd today is to talk about "The Big Plan." Earlier today, I spoke about reforming government with new technology. I also talked about making government simpler, easier for people to understand.

Changing government is important, but nothing will rebuild trust in government more than increased citizen involvement.

In my opinion, there are really FOUR branches of government: the executive branch, the legislative branch, the judicial branch AND involved citizens.

Up until now government has tended to focus on what GOVERNMENT can do to regain citizens' trust. That is important...but to bring government back to the people, we must celebrate citizen participation in public life.

Today, we have a rare chance to celebrate the accomplishments of two active citizens in Brainerd. They represent the best of citizen involvement.

First, right here at your school, I am announcing to the State of Minnesota the appointment of a new judge.



The judgeship I am announcing today is the second of 13 new judgeships created in a bill passed by the 1999 legislature, which I signed into law. Fourteen people applied for this vacancy. The Commission on Judicial Selection, which reviews applications and makes recommendations on district court judgeships, interviewed nine semi-finalists on August 18. The Commission recommended 3 finalists to me for this vacancy. In my role in appointing attorneys to judgeships, I look at their involvement in the community as well as their experience practicing law.

The finalists were Donald Ryan, Bobbie Sarff and David Ten Eyck. All three finalists are well qualified and have demonstrated a commitment to public service. I would like to thank Richard Breen and the Commission on Judicial Selection for their hard work.

I am proud to announce the appointment of David Ten Eyck as my fifth district court judge.

Mr. Ten Eyck is a partner in the Brainerd law firm Ten Eyck and Hollenhorst. He is also a State Senator, an Administrative Law Judge and has served on the Board of Directors of Legal Aid Services. Mr. Ten Eyck has been active in the community as President of Confidence Learning Center, a board member of the Brainerd Family YMCA and the Brainerd Rotary.

Mr. David Ten Eyck will continue to be active in the Brainerd community after he becomes a judge. He will work to demystify the judiciary and make the courts more understandable and user-friendly to the citizens. But rest assured if anyone commits a crime, he would make sure that you are held accountable for your actions. I hope each of you students will follow Mr. Ten Eyck's example and get involved in public service. Ladies and gentlemen, students, members of the bench, Mr. David Ten Eyck.

(Mr. Ten Eyck comes to the podium to speak)

Thank you and congratulations, Judge TenEyck.

Now, I would like to introduce another active citizen, Jayna Matthew who grew up right here in Brainerd. Jayna is a two-time national champion at the 1,500 meter run. She is also an honors graduate from St. Olaf College in Northfield where she majored in English and spent five months studying in the Middle East. This is pretty impressive stuff.

In addition to her brains and accomplishments, Jayna has given much time and energy to be an involved citizen. At St. Olaf, she taught English to students from other countries and she supervised student elections on campus. Here in Brainerd, Jayna dedicated a summer to helping educate mothers and families about changes in welfare laws.

You students are active citizens in your school. Jayna is a great example of someone who graduated from the schools of Brainerd and is now an active citizen of Minnesota. For all her work and dedication, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the NCAA, named Jayna



Matthew one of ten finalists to be the NCAA Woman of the Year. Jayna, thank you for joining me today as a remarkable example of active citizenship.

(Jayna Matthew comes to the podium to speak)

Thank you Jayna.

I understand that you have prepared some questions to ask me. Who's first?