Steve Heil, Arts Network Chair-Elect
Gifted Support Specialist, Santa Fe (NM) Public Schools

Network Vision Statement
My journey to NAGC and candidate for the Arts Network chair-elect began as a New Mexico art teacher with an interest in the unique needs of highly able students. Eight years ago, I began to teach gifted students in all subjects, still striving for the outcome of creative excellence and artistic thinking. Now I support gifted educators and students as a specialist with a focus on research-based approaches to bridging excellence gaps and optimizing arts talent among underrepresented groups. Throughout my 23-year education career, I have helped to build community around issues of gifted education and arts education and to connect new research to action, both in schools and communities. As chair-elect, my vision is to continue to bridge the fields of arts education and gifted education, drawing arts educators’ attention to findings of gifted education while expanding awareness of strategies that foster gifted students’ artistic development.