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**Network Vision Statement**
I am a proud member of the GLBTQ Network. Growing up as gay child in a traditionally conservative community presented many challenges. Early, I was faced with two options: either hide my talents and identity in order to fit in or fight back the stereotypes and social norms. Luckily, at age 17, I took the second route. Along my way, I was fortunate to be supported by great teachers, my mother, and closest friends. Sadly, this is not the case for every gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and non-conforming child.

Gifted and talented youth, no matter their gender identity, gender expression, or backgrounds have the right to receiving acceptance and support; as I did. In my vision, equity is the empowering and necessary engine to promote individual and social development. My commitment is to join efforts with network members to advocate for GLBTQ children in gifted programs for them to rid of the burdens of oppressive social expectations.