**1.** Opening remarks . . . **Our Travels through Time**

Many thanks to the organizers of wonderful conference for inviting me to speak with you today. This has such a great meaning for me. As a coming home into a welcoming community, it brings a kind of closure I couldn’t have dreamt of years ago.

As I reflect on my first Out-to-Innovate in 2012, I’m totally amazed at the rapid progress our community is now making . . . in our travels through time.

We’ve clearly entered a period of historic techno-social change . . . enabling ever more people to open the doors to personal freedom and full participation in life. By moving from “covering” in the shadows to “uncovering” out in the daylight, LGBT people are in the very vanguard of this social renaissance.

Vision, teamwork and technology are enabling us, and other former ‘outsiders’ of all kinds, to find our voices, our communities and our rightful places in the world. In return, our accumulating experience and collective impact are fueling ever-more-rapid techno-social change.

But where is this all headed? While exciting, many on the sidelines find the prospects scary. They don’t want to be left behind, as trains leave the station. But which trains to take, and when to jump on them? After all, the early ones could run off their rails! How to plan? How to position for careers, and more? How to keep up?

Ah, but what we’ve seen so far is only the beginning. A huge incoming wave of techno-social innovation, now just over the time-horizon, will soon sweep through . . . lifting all our lives onto an even higher plane.

But how can we visualize what’s going on, how can we prepare to surf that incoming wave? That’s what I’d like us to explore today.

Let’s begin by reflecting on my own awakening about all this, back in 2013, in Washington DC.