

Appendix A

About Best Practices Team Members

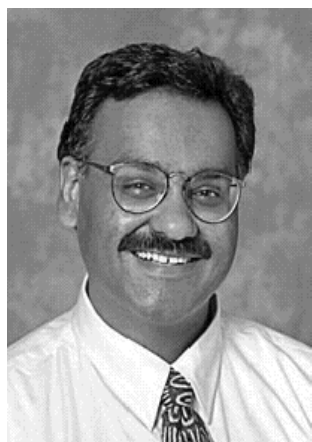
This appendix presents biographical information about each of the four Best Practices team members.

Appendix A: About Best Practices Team Members



Vivian Elliott is an African American/black woman who grew up in Michigan. She is an independent consultant with Elliott Service Systems, Inc. in Denver, Colorado. Vivian now works extensively in bringing equitable policies, practices, and perspectives into teaching, learning, curriculum, and assessment in school districts throughout the United States. Contact Vivian at <vivelliott@aol.com>.

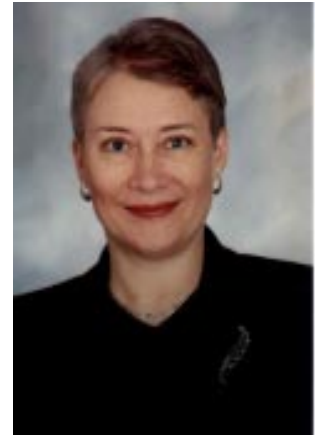
Steve Kay, a European American/white man, is partner at Roberts & Kay, Inc. in Lexington, Kentucky, a firm dedicated to advancing democratic practices in workplaces and communities. Steve grew up in a Jewish family in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He works extensively as a researcher and facilitator on complex community change, typically involving many different views and interests. Contact Steve at <steve@robertsandkay.com>.



Biren "Ratnesh" Nagda is an East Indian man who grew up in Kenya, East Africa. He is currently an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Washington in Seattle. Ratnesh has developed and conducted extensive research on intergroup dialogues among college students, both at the University of Washington and in his previous post at the University of Michigan. He teaches courses on cultural diversity, social justice, and intergroup dialogue practice. Contact Ratnesh at <ratnesh@u.washington.edu>.

Toward Competent Communities: Best Practices for Producing Community-Wide Study Circles

Rona Roberts is a European American/white woman who grew up in rural Kentucky. She is partner at Roberts & Kay, Inc. and served as the project manager for the Best Practices study. Rona is in her twentieth year of work as a researcher and adviser for organizational and community change. Contact Rona at <rona@robertsandkay.com>. Roberts & Kay, Inc. also has a web site, www.robertsandkay.com, that describes the firm's work quite thoroughly.



In addition to having diverse education and work experiences, the two women and two men on the Best Practices team reflect some of the racial and ethnic diversity that characterized the populations in many of the Best Practices learning sites. The four team members found that their own backgrounds helped them to access different information in communities, and particularly helped deepen their understanding of the information communities shared.



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