

Barbara is a second-generation Arizonan, born in Phoenix in the 50's to a mother from Clarkdale/Prescott and a father from Nebraska, both of whom graduated from ASU. Her father, Pat Lebs, was a high school band director in the Valley for almost 40 years. Barb grew up near 23rd Avenue and Camelback and graduated from Alhambra High School. She went to NAU for a Bachelor's degree in Social Science with a minor in Anthropological Linguistics, and later a Master's in Adult Education with dual emphasis in Social Science and English/ESL.

Before teaching, she worked for a bit with DES Food Stamps and at a church for community development, and then part time teaching ESL at Arizona Western College in Yuma, South Mountain Community College, Glendale Community College, and American Graduate School for International Management. After obtaining her secondary teaching certificate, she taught English for 2 years at the high school in Parker, Arizona, before coming back to the valley to spend 31 years in Deer Valley USD. There she taught middle school English for a while before transitioning to Social Studies and then moving to Sandra Day O'Connor High school, teaching American History, Government, and Economics. Since retiring in 2013, she has been teaching English part time at GCC and GCC North.

Her husband Brent is originally from North Dakota, and is an architect in a Phoenix firm. Her son Bryan and daughter Kathryn both went through Deer Valley schools K-12 and also went to NAU. Kathryn is currently living and working in Phoenix; Bryan is in Oregon. Barb and Brent enjoy spending time with their Labrador retriever and a black cat; crafting and quilting, and travel. They are very active at Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church, especially in music.