

Colleen Blaylock  
October 18, 2016

I was born on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and am an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. I am the eldest of six children and the daughter of Lillian Vallely. Growing up on the reservation I attended Fort Hall Elementary School and Blackfoot Middle School. After attending Blackfoot High for one year, I was accepted at St. Mary's Episcopal School for Native American girls in Springfield, South Dakota, where I completed my high school education.

Upon graduating from St Mary's in 1960, I was accepted into the business program at the Rockford School of Business in Rockford Illinois. While pursuing my Associate of Arts degree, I was employed part-time with the Rockford Public Library. After completing my degree I was fortunate to be offered a full-time position and remained with the Rockford Public Library for fourteen years.

In 1976 my husband, Kent, was admitted to a degree program at Arizona State University, and we left Rockford (and the snow and cold weather) behind to move to the Phoenix metropolitan area. After working for four years as an account coordinator for the Jennings and Thompson Advertising Agency, I returned to the world of books accepting a position with the Tempe Public Library. I remained with the library for 29 years driving the bookmobile and working in the children's center, periodicals, and the computer access center. In 2009 I retired and became a lady of "do what makes you happy".

I currently live in Tempe, Arizona with my husband of 40 years. I have a son, James Vinci, who lives in Temecula, California with his family. We are proud grandparents of, Ryan (age 17), and Brinley (age 15).

In 2000 I was appointed to the Lillian Vallely School Board of Directors, and I have served as the Board Secretary since 2002.