

## Debbie Kucharski, Director Undergraduate Advising

I am starting my 15<sup>th</sup> year of advising in the College of STEM. I started advising First Year Engineering students and am now excited to advise high school students in the College Credit Plus program through until graduating with their engineering degree. I started my advising career in the late 80's in YSU's College of Applied Science and Technology now known as Health and Human Services working with the CARE program and then as a part time advisor.

Prior to YSU I was at The University of Akron, first working in the Graduate programs in Business and the International Executive MBA program and then in Summit College working with students in the Associate Health Programs and provisionally admitted students.

Before Akron I worked in industry at the Lordstown Fabricating Plant as an Educational Development Counselor funded through the University of Michigan. I assisted employees use their tuition assistance benefits, many of which attended YSU. The first employee to see me about using his tuition assistance was a 60+ gentleman, close to retirement, who wanted to complete his Associate degree that he started at YSU before going into the service. He was able to graduate with his Associate in Arts degree from the College of Arts & Sciences.

In my 30<sup>+</sup> year career I have worked in social service, industry and colleges with individuals wanting to further their learning. I firmly believe we are never too old to learn something new and Covid certainly pushed me learn things I never thought I would want to know. Every day is something new and can be challenging at times, however I would not change the path I chose.

As much as I love talking, in my free time I have a passion for making Faberge'-style eggs. I get to be creative and design and they do not talk back!