Gretchen Kukuchka MHRA *Business Consultant* The University of Scranton SBDC

Raised in a family business and today assisting her spouse in running his own business, SBDC Consultant, Gretchen Kukuchka understands a 9 to 5 schedule is not happening, and that having flexibility, lots of confidence, and super planning is critical to the success of any venture. Gretchen serves the Northern Tier region – Bradford and Tioga Counties and also consults in Lackawanna County. She coordinates the Small Business Internship Initiative, linking Northeastern Pennsylvania small businesses and students with internship experiences and has presented this topic to a national audience. Gretchen has consulted with the SBDC for over a decade and has most recently attained Certified Business Advisor credentials through GrowthWheel International, to better aid her clients. She is a member of the Board of Directors of MetroAction, Inc. and the Sayre Enterprise Center.

Gretchen is inspired by advising established businesses with challenges or an interest in growing and improving. With a Master's degree in Human Resources Administration and emphasis on organizational leadership, her specialty interests are workforce, leadership, family business/succession plans and strategic planning. You can also find Gretchen pulling together a great team of SBDC expertise and/or local partners to help businesses. After all, she believes grit, practical solutions and team dedication ultimately help boost local communities!

Gretchen's other career experience includes a background in international exporting/regional economic development, as well as shaping a comprehensive scholarship program for The Roy W. Piper Charitable Trust. A graduate of Virginia Tech and The University of Scranton, as well as Leadership Lackawanna, Gretchen has served on various small business committees and has been the recipient of various awards.