

## *Personal Bio*

DEBBIE KIESEL

DIRECTOR

Texas AHEC East—Piney Woods Region

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Debbie Kiesel is the fourth director for the Piney Woods Region operation, which was founded in 1992. Her most recent position was Academic Advising Director at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU), working with programs for undeclared students, developmental education, and training for staff and faculty advisors.



Her experience at SFASU includes serving the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) as East Texas Regional Advisor for College and Career Readiness. This eight-year, grant-funded project focused on building partnerships between P-12 and higher education faculty, alignment of curriculum to improve college readiness, and regional workforce development, all tasks directly relevant to AHEC core programming.

Kiesel relocated to East Texas after fifteen years at St. Edward's University (SEU) in Austin as an instructor, advisor and administrator. Her last role at SEU included oversight of two federal programs (Student Support Services/TRIO and the College Assistance Migrant Program/CAMP) and co-writing a Title V grant to improve first-generation students' achievement in science-intensive majors.

A Louisiana native and first-generation college graduate, Kiesel holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She recently became a certified interpreter of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Strong Interest Inventory (SII) career assessments.

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