

**Dr. Connie Ruhl-Smith**  
**Bio-sketch 2025**

Dr. Connie Ruhl-Smith is an experienced educational leader with extensive background in the study of K-12 schools, post-secondary student success, and international student growth in varied university settings.

Connie holds the BS, MS, and Ph.D. from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. As a published scholar and frequent presenter at national conferences, Dr. Ruhl-Smith is known for her deep insights into the complex world of student retention to degree attainment and the myriad factors required to allow said success to come to fruition.

Her current work at Eastern Michigan University is dedicated to international development, with targeted attention to alumni giving around the globe, as well as obtaining corporate support for the university's growing international population now emanating from more than 80 different countries. Connie is the spouse of EMU President James M. Smith and, thus, resides with Dr. Smith at the University House on the Eastern Michigan University campus.