

Portia Wu, Microsoft



Portia Wu is Director, Workforce Policy, on the Microsoft U.S. Government Affairs team, where she focuses on federal policy regarding workforce, skills, and the future of work.

Portia has spent her career developing and implementing policy solutions on a wide range of labor and workforce related issues. Most recently, she served as Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor, where she oversaw billions of dollars in federal workforce and training investments. Portia led the agency through the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, the largest reform of the public workforce system in almost two decades. She previously served in the Executive Branch as Special Assistant to the President for Labor and Workforce Policy.

Portia got her start in policy work at the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee, working for Senator Edward M. Kennedy. She held several positions there, including Labor Policy Director and General Counsel. She has also worked outside government, including as Vice President at the National Partnership for Women & Families and as an attorney at Bredhoff & Kaiser, PLLC.

Portia serves as a board member for the National Skills Coalition and for Apprenti, a program of the Washington Technology Industry Association Workforce Institute.