

Megan Smith

CEO, shift7, and 3rd U.S. Chief Technology Officer (2014–17)

Megan Smith is an award-winning entrepreneur, engineer, and tech evangelist who recently cofounded shift7 to focus on community organizing innovation for economic inclusion and impact. As the third US chief technology officer (2014–17), she helped the president and federal teams harness the power of technology, data, and innovation to advance the future of the nation and the world. She recruited top tech talent to serve across government collaborating on pressing issues from data science, AI, and open source to inclusive economic growth and criminal justice reform. Her teams focused on capacity building by cocreating initiatives such as TechHire, Computer Science for All, and the Image of STEM campaigns including #SeeHer.

Ms. Smith was a vice president at Google for 11 years, leading new business development and managing early-stage partnerships across the company's global engineering and product teams. She led acquisitions of Google Earth, Maps, and Picasa; steered Google.org to include more direct engineering impact, such as Google Crisis Response; and served on the leadership team of GoogleX, where she cocreated SolveForX and Women Techmakers. As CEO of PlanetOut, she was a leader of the online LGBT community in the early days of the internet. She also worked as an engineer at General Magic on teams designing early smartphone technologies and at Apple Japan in Tokyo.

Ms. Smith is an NAE member and an advisor to the MIT Media Lab, Vital Voices, Think of Us, and the Malala Fund, which she cofounded. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from MIT, where she now serves on the board. She was a member of the MIT student team that designed, built, and raced a solar car 2,000 miles across the Australian outback.