



2023 Woman of Distinction Government and Community Affairs



Alka Patel
Vice President of Government
Affairs and Community Investment
Comcast

Alka Patel serves as vice president of government and external affairs for Comcast in the Keystone Region focusing on advancing digital equity, having accrued over 20 years of experience working at the intersection of technology, business, and law across private, academic, and government sectors. Prior to Comcast, Alka was the inaugural chief of Responsible AI for the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Artificial Intelligence Center where she led strategic development and implementation of the enterprise-wide Responsible AI program, leading to drive AI innovation and advance policy in defense nationally and internationally.

Previously, Alka was the inaugural executive director of the Digital Transformation and Innovation Center at Carnegie Mellon University, sponsored by

PricewaterhouseCoopers. Alka was directly responsible for the operational start-up of this industry/academia initiative, as well as managing research projects in AI, data analytics, and cybersecurity/privacy. Alka's previous roles include managing director and senior counsel for The Bank of New York Mellon and senior counsel in private practice. She has also been applauded for her professional accomplishments, serves on numerous non-profit boards, and advocates for gender and racial diversity.

Alka holds a juris doctorate and master's in business administration from Duquesne University, and a bachelor of science degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the proud mother of a Girl Scout, Meera (14), as well as two sons, Rajan (16), and Avinash (18).