

Influential Women Spotlights Mikayla Cosden: Top Azure Principal Solution Engineer At Microsoft In Financial Services

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, August 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Bringing More Than Two Decades of Experience in Cloud based Architecture, Cybersecurity, Frontier AI, and Enterprise Technology Transformation

Mikayla Cosden is an Azure Principal Solution Engineer at Microsoft, specializing in scalable networking, cybersecurity, and strategic enterprise transformation utilizing generative and agentic AI solutions in hyperscaled cloud environments. Based in the New York City metropolitan area, she works with commercial and enterprise customers across financial services, media and entertainment, and public sector organizations to design and implement zero trust, scalable Azure architectures. In addition to her customer-facing engineering work, she leads business and IT strategy workshops and contributes to industry discussions through speaking engagements at major events, including as a speaker at Black Hat in Las Vegas on network security in the cloud.



Mikayla's journey in technology began at a young age, driven by a self-taught curiosity for how computers work through hands-on exploration and reverse engineering. That curiosity eventually led her to pursue formal education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a specialization in artificial intelligence and cognitive psychology.

She began her professional career in management consulting at Accenture, where she developed software components, advised enterprise clients, and integrated complex systems into on-premise mainframe environments. She subsequently held senior roles at Ernst & Young

and Microsoft, building deep expertise in large-scale enterprise architecture and digital transformation.

Across more than two decades of experience, Mikayla has supported major organizations in financial services, media and entertainment, and government sectors at the federal, state, and local levels. Her career has centered on technology strategy and enterprise consulting for the C-Suite, EVP, SVP, and Director level, giving her extensive experience in helping organizations understand and apply complex technologies to real-world challenges.

One of her most impactful contributions came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she helped develop a remote media editing workflow solution that enabled Hollywood studios to continue production by allowing editors to access and process footage remotely. The solution helped keep projects moving despite widespread shutdowns and demonstrated the practical role technology can play in responding to significant disruptions.

Throughout her career, Mikayla has focused on technology strategy and enterprise consulting, an experience she often describes as providing MBA-level business insight through real-world application. Her work combines technical understanding with an emphasis on helping organizations navigate transformation and make practical use of emerging technologies.

Mikayla attributes her success to a strong sense of commitment paired with a deep curiosity. Her genuine passion for technology—and its potential to drive personal growth and strengthen communities—has continually motivated her to explore and understand its broader impact on society.

She finds great fulfillment in translating complex technologies into accessible, practical insights, particularly to empower women to confidently leverage technology in their daily lives, careers, and personal pursuits. Ultimately, she views technology as a powerful tool for positive change, enabling greater opportunity, connection, and empowerment.

The best career advice Mikayla has received centers on two interconnected ideas: stay curious and build confidence. Curiosity drives continuous learning and connection, while confidence enables her to apply that knowledge with clarity and meaning.

Many professionals, including Mikayla herself, experience imposter syndrome at some point in their careers, and overcoming it begins with recognizing a simple truth—that everyone is human, learning and evolving as they go. Embracing that perspective helps quiet self-doubt and reinforces the belief that she is capable of solving complex problems, developing meaningful solutions, and providing valuable guidance to others.

Mikayla also encourages young women entering the technology industry to ensure their voices are heard and to confidently claim their seat at the table. She believes their life experiences and perspectives are valuable and that their contributions matter.

Entering a new industry provides a highly sought-after outsider's perspective that can bring new ideas and perspectives into a conversation. Mikayla encourages young women not to hesitate to speak up, share their ideas, and advocate for themselves. She emphasizes the importance of trusting their experience and not allowing others to diminish their confidence. They should contribute boldly and recognize that they have earned their place—they belong there just as much as anyone else.

One of the biggest dynamics in Mikayla's field right now is the rise of AI, which presents both tremendous opportunity and real challenges. On one hand, AI is transforming how people work by increasing productivity, accelerating innovation, and helping solve complex problems more efficiently.

At the same time, AI raises important questions around ethics, environmental impact, and long-term societal effects, especially as infrastructure like data centers rapidly expands to support it. For Mikayla, the key challenge and opportunity is finding the right balance: continuing to innovate and unlock value while being thoughtful and responsible stewards, ensuring that the technology being built ultimately benefits people and protects the world they live in.

Integrity and honesty are at the heart of both Mikayla's work and her personal life. She considers them the foundation for trust and meaningful relationships. Beyond that, she values commitment and a genuine sense of care in everything she does.

For Mikayla, it is not just about outcomes, but about how she shows up for people along the way. She believes in being fully present, leading with authenticity, and putting in consistent effort—not just for results, but because it reflects respect for the people she works with and the goals they share. For her, it is about creating an environment of trust, support, and connection, where people feel valued and inspired to do their best.

Outside of her professional work, Mikayla values time with her family, including her two musical daughters, whose creative interests are an important part of her personal life.

Through her work at Microsoft and her broader engagement with technology, Mikayla Cosden continues to bring together curiosity, commitment, technical expertise, and confidence. Her career reflects a sustained interest in understanding how technology can solve complex problems while creating greater opportunity, connection, and empowerment.

Learn More about Mikayla Cosden:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/Mikayla-Cosden>

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