

Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State

1981 - An expert on Russia and Eastern Europe, she began teaching political science at Stanford University. She was the first woman, first African American and the youngest person, at age 38, to hold the position in the school's history.

1989-1991 - President George H.W. Bush named her director of Soviet and East European Affairs on the National Security Council. She advised the Bush administration on foreign policy and military issues, including the unification of Germany and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

1993 - Returned to Stanford, and named provost, the university's budget and academic official. She became the youngest and first black chief academic and budget officer at Stanford, making her second in command at the institution.

1999- Took a leave of absence to advise Texas Governor George W. Bush, who was then mounting a campaign for the presidency.

2000- During the presidential race, served as one of Bush's team of foreign policy advisers and as a member of Bush's campaign response team.

2001 - Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon she was featured prominently as a government official, dealing with the "war on terrorism."

2001 - January 2005 - National Security Advisor under the Bush administration.

January 2005 - Confirmed as first African American woman Secretary of State.