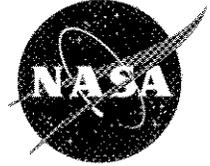


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 26, 2008

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance at a Reception Honoring Dr. Sally K. Ride and Women in Space

On the evening of July 22, 2008, the American Astronautical Society (AAS) is sponsoring, and NASA is hosting, a reception and program at the Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor's Center to honor Dr. Sally K. Ride and women in space. The event, entitled "*We Have Come A Long Way*," is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Dr. Ride's flight as the first American female in space and to recognize the contributions of women to space, science, and engineering. The event will also serve as the opening event for the "Earth Then, Earth Now: Our Changing Climate" educator conference sponsored by Sally Ride Science in conjunction with NASA, NOAA, the National Science Teacher's Association (NTSA), and the Department of Energy.

Approximately 350 guests are expected to attend this event, including officials from NASA and other Federal agencies, Federal, state, and local government, industry, and academia. The estimated cost per person for the reception and program is \$55.

Attendance at this event will allow NASA employees an opportunity to discuss issues of interest to the science and aerospace community with other attendees from Federal agencies, government, academia, and industry. I, therefore, conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Based on the above, I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend this event. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the AAS and the NSTA may accept an invitation for free attendance to this event for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the AAS or the NSTA, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Greenstone".

for Adam F. Greenstone