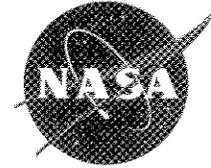


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001

June 1, 2009



Reply to Attn of General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

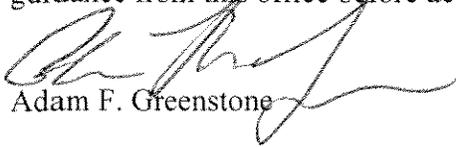
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at a Luncheon on the Hill on Informal Education on June 4, 2009

On June 4, 2009, the co-sponsors, STEM Education Caucus, NSTA, ASTC, COSI, Exploratorium, Lawrence Hall of Science, Liberty Science Center, Maryland Science Center, Miami Science Museum, Museum of Life + Science, Museum of Science and Industry, New York Hall of Sciences and the Pacific Science Centers, are hosting a luncheon at B-340 Rayburn House Office, in Washington, DC, from 12:00 p.m-1:30 p.m. The event will be a collaboration with the STEM Education Caucus to learn more about the recent National Research Council report on informal science education and how informal education experience are sparking a curiosity in the sciences that begins in the early school years and can last a lifetime.

Approximately 100 people have been invited and 50 are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception which includes all food and beverages, is \$30.00 per person. The luncheon will be attended by representatives of the aerospace industry, trade associations, the media, members of Congressman and/or Congressional staffers, academia, and other employees of Federal agencies. I find that this reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow attendees to educate the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in regards to National Research Council report. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge, should seek further guidance from this office before accepting an invitation to attend this program free of charge.



Adam F. Greenstone