National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

June 2, 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 Poster Reception Honoring the 2008-2009 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellows on June 18, 2009

On June 18, 2009, the 2008-2009 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellows, a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building, Gold Room #2168, in Washington, DC, from 6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m. Co-sponsors include U. S. Dept. of Energy and Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education. The reception will be a poster session where the 15 2008-2009 Fellows report out on the activities hosted by the Dept. of Energy, NSF, NASA, Congress, NOAA, and NIST.

The reception will be widely attended by Federal officials from Government agencies, local government officials, representatives of industry and private individuals, and academia. Approximately 250 people have been invited and 50 are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is $15.00 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The event will provide NASA employees to discuss the mission and other NASA programs with representation of the communities participating in the reception.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. 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. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Adam F. Greenstone