National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

June 3, 2011

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education; Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program Reception on June 20, 2011

On June 20, 2011, the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education, a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Kennedy Caucus Room, 325 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This event will honor 32 Distinguished Educator Fellows at NASA, NOAA, DOE, and NSF.

The reception will be widely attended by Federal officials from various government agencies, Members of Congress and their staff, academia, and the general public. Approximately 200 people have been invited and are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is $20.00 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). The event will provide NASA employees an opportunity to discuss the mission and other NASA programs with representatives of the communities participating in the reception. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsor or a majority of its members may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, 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