National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

March 1, 2013

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 Intel Science Talent Search Awards Gala hosted by the Society for Science and the Public on March 12, 2013

On March 12, 2013, the Society for Science and the Public, a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, will host the Intel Science Talent Search Awards Gala at the National Building Museum, in Washington, D.C. at 6 PM.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the achievements of the 40 Intel Science Talent Search finalists. Approximately 2,500 people will be invited to attend. Attendees will include representatives from other federal agencies, academia, local scientists and other guests. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is around $75 per person.

I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). 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 NASA attendees to exchange information on NASA's programs and policies, including the Agency's efforts to encourage and mentor young scientists. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest 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