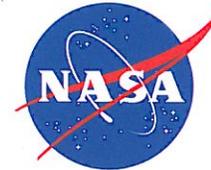


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 14, 2013

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at the reception and dinner hosted by U.S. News & World Report on June 18, 2013

On June 18, 2013, U.S. News & World Report is hosting a reception and dinner sponsored by Cisco Systems and Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas, Austin. The event will take place at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas, from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

U.S. News handled all the planning including the invitations and seating arrangements. The sponsors did not have any input in the planning. The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for STEM leaders to get together to network and discuss STEM issues. Approximately 150 people were invited to attend including Leland Melvin, NASA Associate Administrator for Education. Academia and corporate executives who are interested in STEM will be attending the event. The estimated cost of the event including all food and beverages is \$135.00 per person. I find that this event 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 provide NASA attendees with the opportunity to discuss STEM and other related educational issues with other guests. Accordingly, NASA employees, 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 for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the 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.

Kathleen T. Spear

Adam F. Greenstone