

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899



March 1, 2016

Reply to Attn of:

CC-A

TO: All NASA Employees

FROM: AA/Director

SUBJECT: Guidance Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Florida Regional VIP Luncheon on March 11, 2016, in Orlando, Florida

The Florida FIRST Robotics Education Foundation will host the annual Florida FIRST Regional Robotics Competition and a VIP Luncheon at the University of Central Florida in Orlando on March 11, 2016. Approximately 120 guests have been invited to attend. Invitees include participating students and representatives from academia, the space industry, community groups, the media, and state and Federal governments. As part of the FIRST Robotics Florida Regional Competition, this luncheon is designed to connect students with Florida's high-tech workforce. The cost of the event is \$24 a person.

I find that the luncheon meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). The event will provide Agency representatives the opportunity to discuss matters of interest to NASA with officials from other Federal and state agencies, students, members of academia, the media, community group members, and representatives of the space industry. It is in the Government's best interest for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend as representatives of NASA. I have determined NASA's ongoing interest in the space education program and the encouragement of students to pursue careers related to science, technology, engineering, and math outweigh the concern that free attendance at this event may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under the Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for complimentary attendance at the event. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of duties involving procurement or Space Act or other agreements, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from the Office of the Chief Counsel.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Cabana".

Robert D. Cabana