

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 4, 2016

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

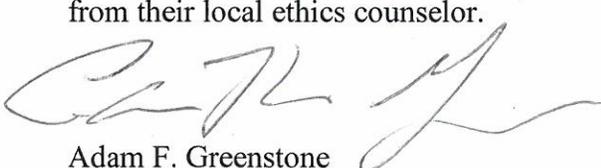
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Intel Foundation Dinner on March 15, 2016

On March 15, 2016, the Intel Foundation, a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a dinner at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Neil deGrasse Tyson, Astrophysicist and the Frederick P. Rose Director, Hayden Planetarium, American Museum of Natural History. The event is to honor the nation's top forty high school seniors and celebrate STEM innovation.

Approximately 5,000 people have been invited to attend, including Congressional members and staff, academia, industry representatives, employees of other Federal agencies, members of the public and media. The estimated cost of the reception, including all food and beverages, is \$87 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 regarding various NASA programs.

NASA employees – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – whose duties do not substantially affect the Intel Foundation or the Society for Science, may accept an invitation for free attendance for themselves and a guest.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the Intel Foundation or the Society of Science, 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