

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 21, 2015

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 L'Oreal USA for Women in Science Fellows Awards Ceremony, on October 22, 2015

On October 22, 2015 L'Oreal USA will host a reception at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C., at 6:30 p.m. The event is to introduce and celebrate the 2015 L'Oreal USA for Women in Science Fellows and present them with grants to help fund their scientific research.

Approximately 1,500 people have been invited to attend, including representatives from Congress and the Executive Office of the President, other Federal agencies and academia, members of industry and media, and L'Oreal employees. The estimated cost of the reception, including all food and beverages, is \$75.00 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 free attendance at the above mentioned event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding NASA's plans and programs. Accordingly, 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 sponsors or a majority of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, such as by way of contracting 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 to attend under the widely attended gathering exception.

Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year). We understand that L'Oreal USA will be

distributing a gift bag with a total value of \$300 worth of L'Oreal products. Accordingly, attendees should decline the gift bag or reimburse L'Oreal for its contents.

Kathleen T. Spear

for

Adam F. Greenstone