

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



May 3, 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 Women in Aerospace (WIA) Luncheon on May 24, 2016

On May 24, 2016, Women In Aerospace (WIA), a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, together with Northrop Grumman, will host a lunch, at the Northrop Grumman Corporate Headquarters, Falls Church, VA starting at 11:30 a.m. The guest speakers will be James Cartwright, former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Major General Peter Gersten, Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve; Dr. Kris Kearns, U.S. Air Force Senior Advisor for Autonomy Research; and Dr. Julie Stark, U.S. Navy Senior Advisor for Autonomous Systems.

Approximately, 100 people are expected to attend. This event will include representatives from the U.S. legislative branch and aerospace industry, academia, other government agencies, media and members of the public. The event is sponsored by WIA, and they are also in charge of the event and seating. The estimated cost of this event, including all food and beverages, is \$65.00 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)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above-mentioned event is in the interest of the Agency, because it will further agency programs and operations. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect WIA or Northrop Grumman may accept free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may only attend if they reimburse the hosts the cost of the event. Additionally, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Northrop Grumman or WIA, or a majority of its members, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


Adam F. Greenstone