National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

October 1, 2014

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance at An Evening with the Stars: Exploration of NASA Glenn Innovation held on October 15, 2014.

On the evening of October 15, 2014, from 6:30-8:00pm, the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI) is hosting a reception and program in the NASA Glenn Visitor Center Gallery of the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland Ohio. This event titled, "An Evening with the Stars: Exploration of NASA Glenn Innovation," will focus on Glenn's expertise in Power, Propulsion, Materials and Structures and Communications. Speakers include the NASA Administrator, the NASA Glenn Center Director, the Director of Research and Engineering and other NASA officials.

Among the 500 guests invited to this event are business leaders, Congress, members, academia, NASA personnel and representatives from other Federal agencies. The estimated cost per person for the reception and program is $84.09. No gifts will be given at the event.

Attendance at the reception will allow NASA employees an opportunity to present and discuss issues of interest with the scientific community, including NASA research and discoveries with attendees from other Federal agencies, business and academic leaders. I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Based on the above, I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect OAI, including employees in non-career positions for which the Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception and program.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect OAI, for instance by way of procurement duties should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Adam Greenstone