

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



September 26, 2014

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 Association of Science-Technology Centers Reception on October 17, 2014

On October 17, 2014, the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Unified Field, and the Umstead Hotel and Spa, will host a reception at the Umstead Hotel and Spa, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The reception is to honor ASTC volunteers and partners, and to recognize the people and organizations involved with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

Approximately 250 people have been invited to attend, including leaders of science centers and museums from across the world, partner companies and institutions, representatives of area business, government and educational entities, and employees of other Federal agencies. The estimated cost of the dinner, including all food and beverages, is \$65 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 sponsors or a majority of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, 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 these events from their local ethics counselor to attend under the widely attended gathering exception.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone