

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Langley Research Center
100 NASA Road
Hampton, VA 23681-2199



January 28, 2015

Office of Chief Counsel/30

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at Educational and Career Receptions Held during the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Tournament, February 26-28, 2015, Charlotte, North Carolina

Representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a series of educational and career-oriented receptions during the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina. These events are as follows:

- (1) The STEM Breakfast, a reception hosted at and by Discovery Place, Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 26, 2015. The event will introduce attendees to STEM initiatives across the CIAA and the City of Charlotte. The organizers expect approximately 30-50 attendees, including school officials, elected officials, corporate representatives, and members of the public. The value of the continental breakfast and other items provided is about \$10 per person.
- (2) The Food Lion Chancellor's Reception hosted by the Delhaize Group at the Time Warner Cable Arena, Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 27, 2015. The event will recognize the contributions of CIAA university leaders, elected officials, and sponsors. The organizers expect approximately 100 attendees, including university officials, elected officials, sponsoring corporation employees, and members of the public. The value of the continental breakfast and other items provided is about \$20 per person.
- (3) The Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) Chancellor's Breakfast hosted by the ECSU Alumni Association at the Omni Hotel, Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 28, 2015. The event will provide updates on ECSU programs and initiatives to its alumni and colleagues. The organizers expect approximately 300 to 500 attendees, including ECSU alumni and colleagues. The value of the continental breakfast and other items provided is about \$15 per person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that these events each meet the definition of a "widely attended gathering." I also find that there is an agency interest in having NASA personnel attend these events because it will further agency programs and operations. NASA invitees will have the opportunity to discuss and exchange information on the agency, its STEM initiatives and career possibilities, in the context of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I conclude that NASA's interest in its

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employees attending this event outweighs any concern that attendance and accepting the food and refreshments offered may appear to improperly influence the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the viewing.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the hosts, and NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, are not covered by this determination and should seek a specific determination from their ethics counselor pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) prior to participation in this event.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Kenneth Goetzke at 757-864-7390.



Michael N. Madrid
Chief Counsel and
Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official