

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



July 28, 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 Challenger Center Reception hosted by the Challenger Center and The Alamo Colleges, on August 9, 2015

On August 9, 2015, the Challenger Center, a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, together with The Alamo Colleges, will host a welcome reception at the Hotel Contessa in the Cypress Room, in San Antonio, Texas, at 6:00 p.m. The event is to provide an opportunity for the attendees at the Challenger Center's Annual Conference to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest in science, education, space travel, and planetary discovery.

Approximately 80 people are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is \$44.00 per person. The event will be attended by representatives from industry and academia, and personnel from other government agencies. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs and operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives to exchange views and ideas on the various programs at NASA with others in attendance. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the Challenger Center – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – may accept an invitation from the Challenger Center for free attendance to the reception.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the Challenger Center, such as by way of procurement duties, 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.

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

Adam F. Greenstone