National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

November 18, 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 National Science Foundation workshop on November 19-20, 2014

On November 19-20, 2014, the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), a Congressionally chartered nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a two day workshop at the National Academy of Sciences, in Washington, D.C., from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 19, and 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 20. The National Academy of Engineering is in control of the planning. The workshop is to create the National Academy of Engineering Committee's report on the career pathways and decisions made by engineers working in the United States.

Approximately 300-400 people have been invited to attend, including Congressional Staff members, academia, representatives from industry, human resources departments, career counselors, working engineers, and personnel from other Federal agencies. The estimated cost of the workshop, including all food and beverages, is $66.00 per person, which includes dinner on November 19 ($36); and breakfast and lunch on November 20 ($12 and $18 respectively). 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 workshop.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the host, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Adam F. Greenstone