National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

March 16, 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 Space Transportation Association (STA) Reception on March 17, 2015

On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, the Space Transportation Association (STA), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C., from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker is the Honorable John Culberson, Chairman of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

Approximately 75 people have been invited to attend, including Congressional members and staff, state and local officials, media, academia, industry representatives, members of the public, and employees of other Federal agencies. The estimated cost of the reception, including all food and beverages, is $25 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 STA 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 STA or a majority of its members, 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