National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

April 15, 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 Women in Aerospace (WIA) Conference on May 5, 2015

On May 5, 2015, Women In Aerospace (WIA), a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the IRS Code, will host a conference, in the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this event is to discuss aerospace issues of today and showcase female aerospace leaders.

Approximately, 300 people are expected to attend. This event will include Congressional members and staff, representatives from the aerospace industry, academia, and other government agencies. The estimated cost of this event, including all food and beverages, is $95.00 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely-attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above-mentioned event is in the interest of the Agency, because it will further agency programs and operations. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event.

Attendees are reminded of the $20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than $20 per occasion (and no more than $50 from one source in a calendar year).

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the WIA 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.

for Adam F. Greenstone