

## **NASA Advisory Council Recommendation**

### **Remove Restrictions on NASA Center Education and Public Outreach Spending 2013-01-09 (EPOC-03)**

#### **Recommendation:**

If a mission team, along with the NASA Office of Education, determine that an educational initiative is in the best interests of the mission, and can identify funding from non-educational budget funds, they should have the authority to spend those funds for that purpose.

#### **Major Reasons for Proposing the Recommendation:**

Citizen science, participatory exploration, “crowdsourcing,” and public engagement are often critical components of a mission, potentially including making contributions to the mission’s science return.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:**

Prohibition on the use of available non-education budget funds for public outreach activities unnecessarily further cripples the ability of NASA to engage the public in the way that it uniquely can.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA’s Office of Education appreciates the support and insight of the NASA Advisory Council; however, non-concurs with the recommendation. Consistent with the Administration’s plan, NASA’s Office of Education will lead the Agency’s coordination with other Federal agencies in pursuit of the Administration’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education goals. NASA will consolidate the education functions, assets, and efforts of the Mission Directorates, Offices, and Centers into a single coordinated STEM Education and Accountability Project. NASA will strive to maintain the best of these activities, which provide unique NASA experiences and resources to students and faculty.

Through the Education Coordinating Council, NASA will coordinate activities, and ensure that NASA focuses on its two key strengths: 1) engaging undergraduate and graduate students in internships and fellowships; and 2) providing opportunities for participatory and experiential learning activities that connect learners, educators, and communities to NASA-unique resources. In addition to the activities directly funded by NASA, the Agency will ensure that its people, facilities, and assets are available for use in the STEM consolidation effort.

Enclosure