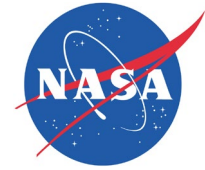


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

April 20, 2026

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Planetary Society, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and Association of American Universities Event on April 21, 2026

On April 21, 2026, Planetary Society, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and Association of American Universities (collectively "Sponsors"), all organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will co-host an educational science showcase at the Hart Senate Office Building, 2nd Street NE & C Street NE, Washington, DC from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The educational showcase will consist of NASA funded researchers and private sector partners having tabletop displays of their NASA Science Mission Directorate relevant work.

Approximately 200 people have been invited to attend. Guests of NASA personnel are invited. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include representatives from Congress and their staff, academia, industry, and media. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$5 - \$10 per person.

The Sponsors are in control of the organizing, planning and invitations for this event. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. 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 provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA's policies, programs and operations. NASA employees, who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of the Sponsors, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

Adam F. Greenstone