



Trading Cards

"Try the road less traveled by."

Name: Dana Backman

Title: Astronomy Researcher & Educator

What I do: I use telescopes in space, in airplanes, and on the ground to discover and study planetary systems that are forming. I train teachers to work with astronomers using the SOFIA airborne observatory, a 747 jet with a 2.5 meter (100-inch) telescope aboard.

Education: Ph.D. at University of Hawaii

Experience: Four years at Kitt Peak National Observatory as a research astronomer; two years at NASA-Ames; twelve years as a professor of physics and astronomy at Franklin and Marshall College. recently returned to NASA-Ames to work on SOFIA project

Skills: Teaching, computer programming, managing small departments and research groups

Interests: hiking, camping, music

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