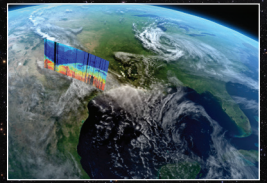
NASA's DISCOVER-AQ mission is diagnosing the air we breathe.



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Jennifer Olson, a graduate of Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, works at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., as a scientist supporting the DISCOVER-AQ field mission. DISCOVER-AQ, which stands for Deriving Information on Surface conditions from Column and Vertically Resolved Observations Relevant to Air Quality, is an airborne field campaign to study pollution where people live and breathe. Olson works with scientists from around the world to study gases and particles called aerosols in the atmosphere.

Over the course of five years, the DISCOVER-AQ field campaign is using two NASA aircraft to make a series of flights with scientific instruments aboard to measure gaseous and particulate pollution. These measurements are taken at the same time as ground observations along the aircrafts' tracks to shed light on how satellites could be used to make similar, consistent measurements over time. The ultimate goal of DISCOVER-AQ is to put better air quality data in the hands of policy-makers and elected officials.

DISCOVER-AQ flights took place over Baltimore-Washington, D.C. in 2011 and over the San Joaquin Valley in California in early 2013. The team is in the Houston region in September 2013. They are planning for a deployment in 2014 in a location to be determined.

DISCOVER-AQ

Learn more about DISCOVER-AQ:
http://www.nasa.gov/discover-aq

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