



David Blake

David Blake is the inventor and Principal Investigator of the CheMin mineralogy instrument, which will launch with the Mars Science Laboratory in November 2011. Blake received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Stanford University, an M.S. in Geological Sciences and a Ph.D. in Mineralogy from The University of Michigan. He came to Ames in 1986 as an NRC Fellow, and became a research scientist in the Exobiology Branch in 1989. He served as chief of the Exobiology Branch from 1999-2003. In 25 years of research at Ames, he has studied astrophysical ices, interplanetary dust, Mars meteorites, lunar soils and stratospheric soot and has participated in the development of several flight instrument prototypes. In 1999, he received NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement medal for his research about astrophysical ice analogs. Blake and former NRC Fellow Philippe Sarrazin won the 2010 NASA Commercial Invention of the Year Award for developing a sample vibration system used in CheMin, as well as a number of commercial instruments based on CheMin technology. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer reviewed scientific and technical publications.

