



# Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) Registrant Spotlight

*This section spotlights a CCI registrant for his or her accomplishments and dedication to the cardiovascular profession. Submissions may be sent to Christine Johnson via email at [cjohnson@cci-online.org](mailto:cjohnson@cci-online.org).*

## **Mike Foster, RCS, RCCS, RDCS (AE, PE), BA, FASE**

Mike Foster grew up in Arkansas and began his career in health-care working as a pharmacy tech while earning a BA in Human Resources from Harding University. He continued as a pharmacy tech while playing music and “goofing off” in Memphis, Tennessee.

After moving to Spokane, Washington, he completed the Non-invasive Cardiovascular Technology program at Spokane Community College, earning his Associate in Applied Science. As an avid runner, Mike thought studying the heart would be interesting, and he became a student of Dennis Carney and Darren Powell. Dennis gave him an opportunity to finish his last clinical rotation at Duke University Health System in Durham, NC. There he trained with CCI Past President John Toptine and CCI Board of Advisors member David Adams. He was also mentored by Dr. Joseph Kisslo (in phased array technology, the first digital PACS system for echocardiography, and 3D ultrasound) and Dr. Tom Ryan (who trained under Dr. Feigenbaum and is the current co-author of Feigenbaum’s Echocardiography).

In 1999, Mike began his echo career as a junior technologist in the Cardiac Diagnostic Unit (adult echo) and still works there today. He truly enjoys the teaching and learning environment.

Mike credits his mentors with impressing upon him the importance of being active in the cardiovascular field at either the local or national level. Mike joined the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) as a student and has been a member ever since. He has spoken at the ASE Annual Scientific Sessions, served on the ASE Committees, and recently was a member of the ASE International Sonographer Training Task Force. Mike has also been awarded the designation of a Fellow of the ASE.

In addition to volunteering with the ASE, Mike is a member on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Ultrasound Society (NCUS). Mike has contributed his time and expertise to CCI as a subject matter expert writing items and Task Analysis for the Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) examination, representing CCI at bi-annual NCUS meetings, and writing an article about CCI for the NCUS newsletter. He also provided valuable guidance to CCI with the development of the new Basic Echo-

cardiography examination, which is designed for individuals outside of North America.

Over the past four years, Mike has had the opportunity to work in Kenya as a part of a teaching grant awarded to Duke through a Center of Excellence Grant from the NIH. Along with providing philanthropic funding, Duke has also teamed up with AMPATH and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital to develop a Cardiology Clinical Research fellowship and build a Cardiac Care Unit. Mike has made numerous trips to Kenya and given much of his time lecturing; working one-on-one with doctors, technologists, and nurses; and teaching cardiac anatomy, physiology, and how to record these with ultrasound. As a result of Mike’s work in Kenya, CCI gained its first RCS-credentialed technologist in Kenya.

Mike says, “I’m a big believer in obtaining a credential, should your field offer one. It shows that you have demonstrated a competent level of understanding in your field that can benefit a doctor’s practice to help patients. Since I’m a cardiovascular technologist in echocardiography, the CCI credentials are very appropriate to demonstrate that I’m a professional.”

Mike continues, “Not everyone comes from countries with schools, credentialing bodies, and/or professional societies in cardiovascular medicine. It may be difficult for these people to obtain the knowledge and training to pass a registry-level exam. However, a mechanism to demonstrate that the individual is making efforts to learn echocardiography, like a certificate, can mean more money and credibility for that employee at his or her institution. That’s why I’m very excited to see CCI develop the “Basic Echocardiography Exam” for these people with fewer resources. It is a productive and affordable step towards registry-level credentials for their careers.” ♥



*From the November 2014 issue of The Pulse*