



NEWS

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El Camino College Police Officer Honored with “Life Saving Award”

El Camino College Police Officer Jeffrey Lewis was honored for saving a life using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device on a cardiac arrest victim this past spring.

Lewis was awarded the “Life Saving Award” by El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo on Dec. 15. Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca also presented Lewis with the Sheriff’s Department Scroll, which honors and details the event.

“A lot of times, as a police officer, we deal with the bad side of criminals,” said Lewis, 32. “I had never dealt with saving someone’s life. It was another aspect of the job that you don’t get to see too often, but it’s something that definitely affects someone and their family for life.”

While on routine patrol through El Camino College, Lewis was flagged down by a neighborhood woman who needed help with her son. Lewis and two sheriff’s deputies responded to the call and found the victim without a heartbeat and not breathing.

Lewis ran back to his car, grabbed the AED, and applied it to the victim’s body. The officers also performed CPR.

The fire department arrived shortly and determined that the victim was in full cardiac arrest. At the hospital, the victim was initially put on life support and a respirator, but a day or so later he was able to breathe on his own.

“We go through hours upon hours of training just for these kinds of situations,” Lewis said. “After that incident I thanked the person who trained me because you never know when you are going to use this information.”

Born and raised in the South Bay, Lewis joined the El Camino College Police Department in December 2004 and serves as a field training officer and a member of the Honor Guard. He is dedicated to promoting DUI enforcement and has received several commendations from MADD at the local and state level.

“In our line of work we are often judged as aggressive and overpowering because we are seen as figures of authority in society,” Lewis said. “This is one of the times that makes me proud of what I do because I am being recognized for doing the job that I do.”

His career experience includes positions as a federal police officer with the Department of Defense at the LA Air Force Base, and with the Department of Homeland Security in the Federal Protective Services Division.

Lewis lives in the South Bay and is married with two children.

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