



Members of SIUE Police Department earn “Life Saving” and “Blue Light” Awards

by Megan Wieser
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EDWARDSVILLE - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Police Officer Dylan Koke has received the “Life Saving Award” from the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (SILEC) and the Southern Illinois Police Chief’s Association (SIPCA) for helping save the life of a choking college student last year at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC).

Koke was honored at the 26th Annual SILEC/SIPCA Awards Banquet, along with SIUE Police Telecommunicator Kathleen Pont. Pont earned the “Blue Light Award,” which recognizes full-time employees who serve as the backbone of their agency.

“We are proud to have Officer Koke in our department,” said SIUE Police Chief Kevin Schmoll. “His quick thinking and calm reaction in a stressful situation reflected his excellent training and willingness to get involved to help someone else.”

In September 2017, Koke was eating lunch with 39 other SWIC Police Academy recruits when he observed a SWIC student choking and responded by performing the Heimlich maneuver. He was able to dislodge the blocked object and save the student’s life.

As a recipient of the “Blue Light” award, Pont has served as a positive role model among her colleagues and continuously displays loyalty and dependability. According to Schmoll, she has been integral in the department’s ability to successfully navigate and properly utilize its New World system to its full potential.

“Kathleen’s constant focus on department needs over her own has shown just how valuable she is to our team’s success,” Schmoll said. “She is a go-to person in our department, continuously taking charge in various situations, resulting in positive outcomes.

Along with her dedication to the SIUE Police Department, Schmoll noted Pont’s volunteerism with Special Olympics and The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

“Kathleen’s hard work inspires our department and sets the standard for all to achieve,” he added.

For more information on SIUE Police, visit siue.edu/police or facebook.com/SIUEpolice.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville provides students with a high quality, affordable education that prepares them for successful careers and lives of purpose to shape a changing world. Built on the foundation of a broad-based liberal education, and enhanced by hands-on research and real-world experiences, the academic preparation SIUE students receive equips them to thrive in the global marketplace and make our communities better places to live. Situated on 2,660 acres of beautiful woodland atop the bluffs overlooking the natural beauty of the Mississippi River’s rich bottomland and only a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of nearly 14,000.