Right place at the right time. Many are saying that today. A Central State University student is now recovering after a University Police Officer revived a student who collapsed, stopped breathing, with no pulse.

On the evening of Wed., Oct 20, Central State University Police Officer Jeananna Diaz was at the front door of the Greene and Anderson Residential Halls conducting a monthly fire drill in conjunction with Residential Life, when a student, Josh Gartley, was leaving from the residential hall and passed Officer Diaz and thanked her for holding the door open for him to leave. Seconds later, the officer noticed another student was standing in the doorway and she immediately saw the student, she had waved on moments earlier, was laying on the ground. Officer Diaz ran towards the student and discovered that the student was exhibiting seizure like movements and called the local paramedics and realized shortly thereafter, that the student stopped breathing and lost consciousness. The officer jumped into action and began life-saving measures including chest...
compressions and administered two rounds of rescue breaths. The student lay unresponsive and without a pulse. Officer Diaz continued administering life-saving measures on the student, until the paramedics arrived. The student then started breathing and had a faint pulse.

The student, identified as sophomore and business major, Josh Gartley, was taken by the City of Xenia Fire Paramedics to Miami Valley Hospital where he was intubated and sedated with tremors for hours. After Josh convulsed for hours, and his medical team conducted many tests, he was later diagnosed with Long QT Syndrome which is a rare genetic type of abnormal heart rhythm, affecting 1 in 5,000 in the United States.

The cardiologist later told CSU police chief and University leadership, that they credited the officer’s quick action for saving Josh’s life.

“Since becoming a police officer, I’ve always known someone would need me,” said Central State University Police Officer Jeananna Diaz. “In that moment, I had this feeling, I knew what to do. I was doing what I was called to do. God placed me at the right place at the right time”, said Diaz.

Josh’s best friend, Mohammed, also a student at Central State, was by his side from the time Josh was taken to hospital until the day he was discharged and he went back home to Chicago. Mohammed retrieved clothes for him, secured his dorm room, and stayed by his side.
Later the next day, Officer Diaz went to MVH to check on Josh and had the opportunity to meet with Josh’s mom, LaShon Gartley, who was very grateful for the officer’s quick actions, and stated, “You saved my world.” Josh’s vitals were stable at the time. He opened his eyes and met Office Diaz’s gaze and feel back asleep.

“Our family was devastated,” continued Gartley. “I drove for 5 hours from Chicago, accompanied only by panic and fear. At the time, I knew only that the machine was breathing for him. I am so grateful for Officer Diaz, Dean Stevenson, and Chief Hill. Dean Stevenson, stayed with Josh until I arrived at hospital,” said Gartley. The next day Josh was removed from the breathing tubes and stable.

“The quick-actions of Officer Diaz saved Josh’s life,” said Central State University Police Chief Stephanie Hill. “She cares about this community, and she is everything that policing deserves and needs. Her actions were heroic, selfless, and life-saving.” The chief echoed the sentiments heard from many others, Officer Diaz was in the right place at the right time. “Our top mission at the University police department is service to others and to practice humanity. I am proud that CSUPD officers work daily to carry out this mission,” continued Hill.

Josh has had to be fitted with a defibrillator. His mom said, “I did not know my son had a heart condition. We now know he was born with it. But it was unknown to our family.” Ms. Gartley has since discovered a couple of family members on her father’s side has the rare condition. Long QT syndrome is known to run in families. “Live a full life of abundance. God has his hands on you,” Gartley told her son. Josh plans to return to Central State In January. “He wants to come back now,” said his mom. Unable to sit still, Josh has accompanied his mom to work. Helping with recess and monitoring lunch period at the elementary school where she works.

The fire drill saved his life,” said Gartley. “Had it not been for the fire drill he would have been in his room. Officer Diaz was in the right place at the right time,” said Gartley.

In addition to his academic studies, Josh has been an athlete for most of his life and also part of a Chicago drill team. He has performed on the TV Show Empire, at the annual Jackson Family tribute for Michael Jackson’s birthday, the Chicago Black Women’s Expo, Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and many other cultural events around the city. Two of Josh’s drill team members are also attending Central State University.